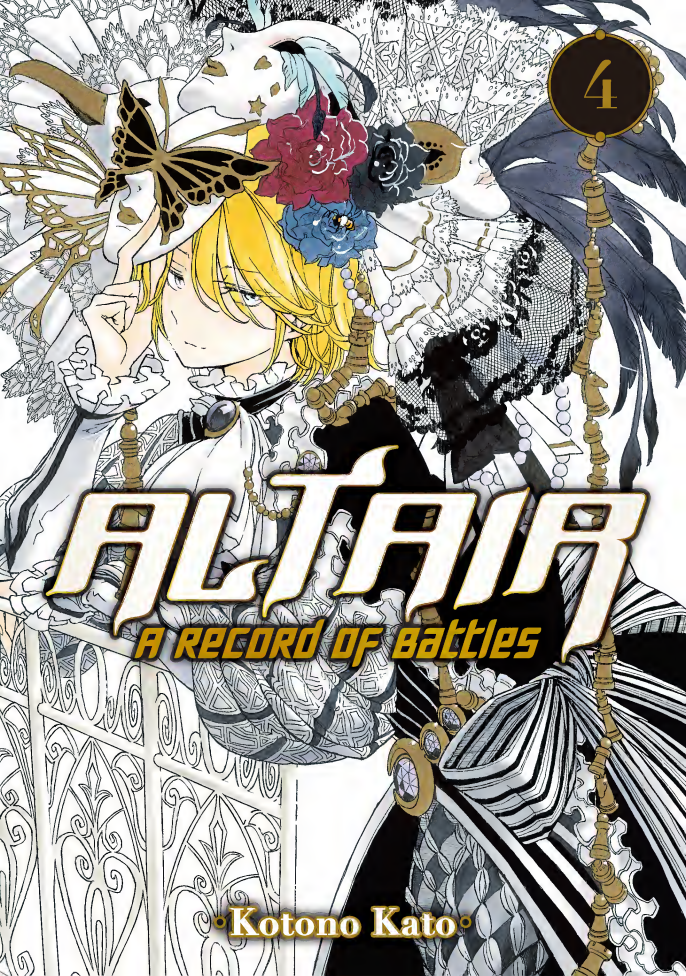




4

ALTAIR

A RECORD OF BATTLES

◦Kotono Kato◦

ALTAIR

A RECORD OF BATTLES



vol. **4**

Art and story by
Kotono Kato

WORLD & CHARACTER GUIDE OF FALTAIR

Balt-Rhein Empire



Balt-Rhein Emperor.

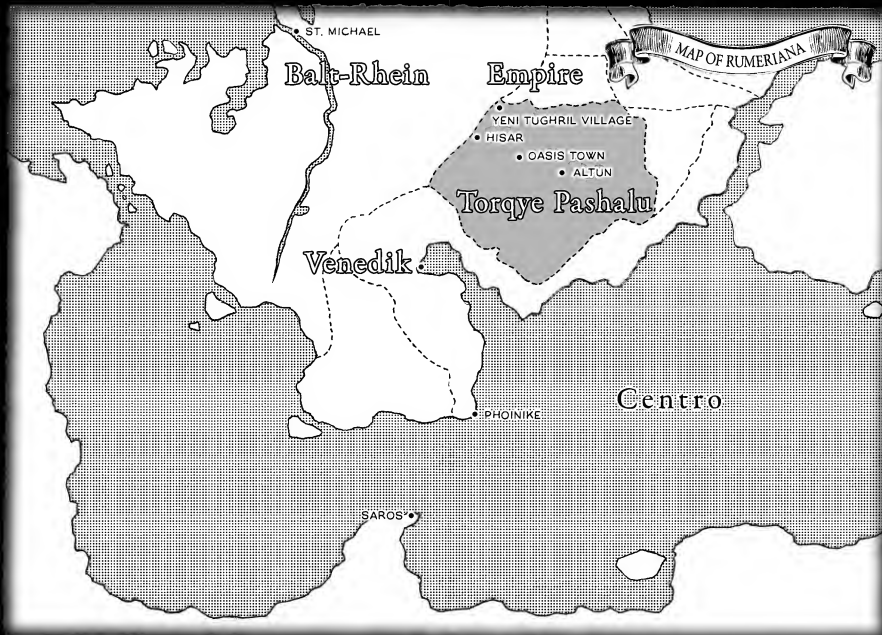


Virilio Louis
Minister of the Balt-Rhein Empire.

Venedik



Naval Captain of Venedik.



The story until now.

War rages between Phoinike and the Balt-Rhein empire! Between the City of the Sea, Phoinike should have easily thwarted the imperial to deliver Phoinike from dire straits, Mahmut personally makes for has fallen! Having narrowly escaped the burning city, Mahmut and

the city's impregnable fortifications, and their alliance with Venedik, threat. However...the Venedician armada is nowhere to be seen! In order Venedik to call for reinforcements. But it is already too late. Phoinike Kiro's are then picked up by a vessel belonging to Venedik...

Torqye Pashalu



The Golden Eagle General Mahmut
Formerly Torqye's youngest pasha until he was demoted to *binbashu*.



Black Winged Süleyman
Chief of the Eyes and Ears, Zaganos's personal spy network.



KIRO'S
A spy belonging to the Eyes and Ears. Son of the Kaisaras of Phoinike.

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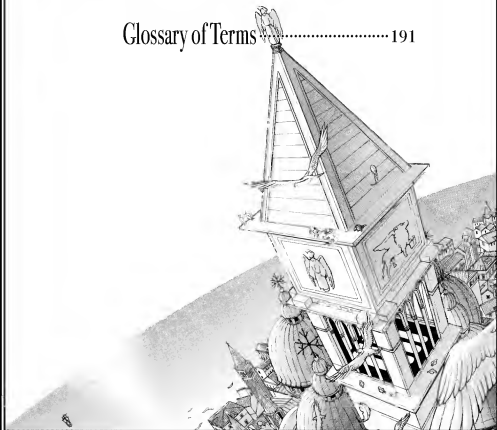
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CAPTAN
OF THE
VENEDICIAN
FLEET.

MY
NAME

IS
SILVESTRO
BREGA.





WE'D
BEST
HAVE YOU
TREATED
IMMEDI-
ATELY.

YOU'RE
BLEED-
ING
BADLY.

THE
SUR-
GEON
IS
BELOW...



BEFORE
THAT,

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'D LIKE TO
ASK YOU.



Fasul 17 The City of the Sea

ARE
HEREBY
UNDER THE
CUSTODY
OF THE
VENEDICAN
FLAGSHIP.
THE SANTA
ANNA.

...IN
LINES
WITH THE
VENEDIK-
PHOINIKE
TREATY.

AS WELL
AS KIROS
IOS APOL-
LODORUS...

TUGHRIL
MAHMUT
BEY OF THE
TORQYE
PASHALU.



WHY
DIDN'T...

...YOU SEND
REINFORCE-
MENTS TO
PHOINIKE?



CAN YOU
NOT SEE
THIS FLEET
BEFORE
YOU?

MAHMUT
BEY...



...FOR NO
OTHER
THAN TO PURPOSE
PROVIDE
RELIEF FOR
PHOINIKE.

WE
HAVE
JOUR-
NEYED
HERE...



FAST,
YOU
SAY?

...OUR
CITY'S
CONSIGLIO*
RESOLVED
TO SEND
A FLEET AS
REINFORCE-
MENTS.

*CONSIGLIO: COUNCIL



UPON
RECEIVING
THE SIGNAL
FROM PHO-
INIKE THAT
WAR WAS
TO BREAK
OUT...



SAILED
TO THESE
WATERS AS
FAST AS
THE WINDS
WOULD
CARRY US.

OUR
CREW

AFTER
SECURING
THE NECESSARY
PROVISIONS AND
PERSONNEL,



WHAT
A SORRY
EXCUSE
FOR
SPEED...



REINFORCE-
MENTS THAT
DON'T EVEN
SHOW ARE
WORTH-
LESS!

PLP
PLP
PLP

...COMING
FROM
CENTRO'S
STRONGEST
NAVY!



...BUT
HE'S
BLEED-
ING OUT
BY THE
SECOND!

PLEASE
PROVIDE
BEY HERE
FIRST AID
IMMEDI-
ATELY!

PARDON
ME FOR
INTERRUPT-
ING...

THAT'S
JUST...

FWIP

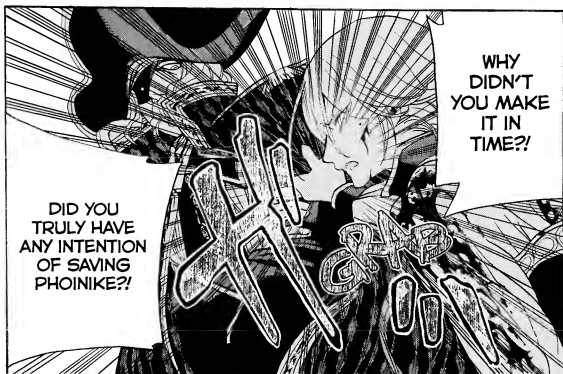


TAKE
HIM
BELOW
TO THE
SUR-
GEON!
SOME-
ONE



YOU'RE
GOING
TO DIE
AT THIS
RATE.

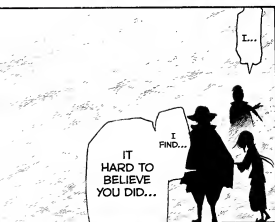
SAVE
THE
ARGUING
FOR
LATER.

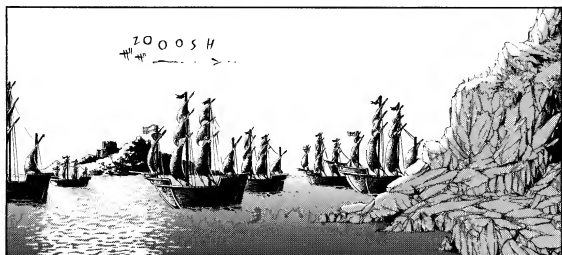
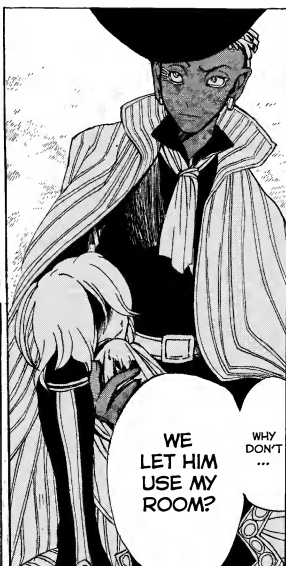


WHY
DIDN'T
YOU MAKE
IT IN
TIME?!

DID YOU
TRULY HAVE
ANY INTENTION
OF SAVING
PHOINIKE?!

X
GAP
OO





NINE
DAYS HAVE
PASSED
SINCE WE
BOARDED
THIS SHIP.

TORQYE
CALENDAR
YEAR 75,
HALU* 7TH.

*HALU: MONTH OF THE CARPET

THANKS
TO THEM,

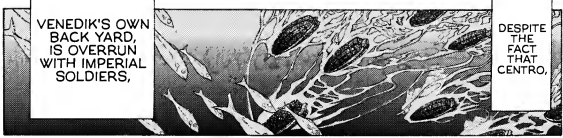
DESPITE
MY EARLIER
RUDENESS...

MY
WOUNDS
ARE HEALING
STEADILY.

...THE
VENEDICIAN
CREW HAS
BEEN VERY
COURTEOUS
IN THEIR
TREATMENT
OF US.

HOW-
EVER,

I STILL
CANNOT
ACCEPT
THIS TURN
OF EVENTS.



VENEDIK'S OWN
BACK YARD,
IS OVERRUN
WITH IMPERIAL
SOLDIERS,

DESPITE
THE
FACT
THAT
CENTRO,



YES...
THERE'S
REALLY...

THE CAPITAN,
ALONG WITH
THE ENTIRE
CREW...

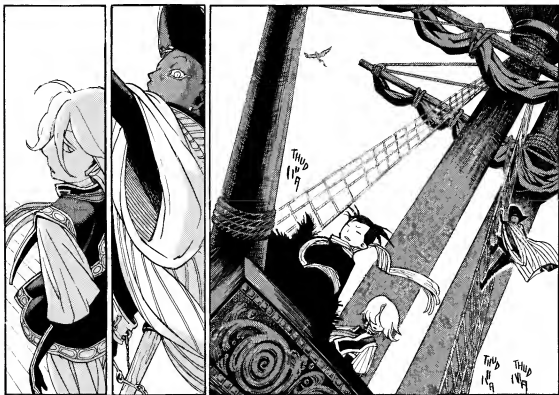
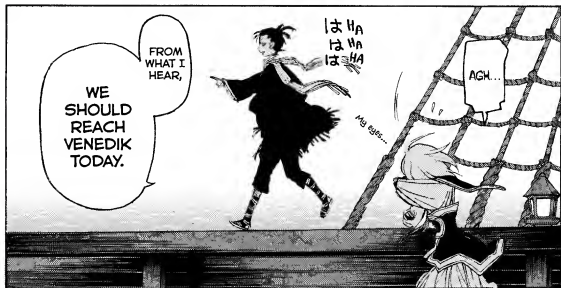
...ALL SEEM
PERFECTLY
CALM.

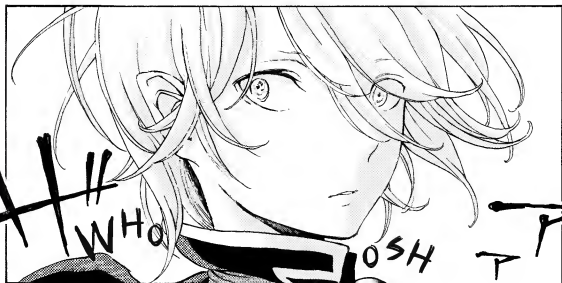


...THEY'RE
OF THE
SAME MIND
AS US.

...NO
REASON TO
BELIEVE...

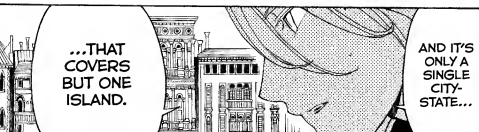












...THAT
COVERS
BUT ONE
ISLAND.

AND IT'S
ONLY A
SINGLE
CITY-
STATE...



THIS
LEVEL OF
PLANNING
AND DEN-
SITY.

...HAVE
CITIES
WHICH
CAN RIVAL...

NOT EVEN
THE GREAT
NATIONS OF
RUMERI-
ANA...



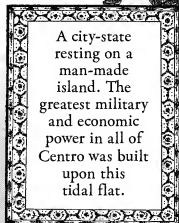
THIS CITY IS
GREATEST
MERCANTILE
NATION IN ALL
OF CENTRO.

BUT, OF
COURSE.

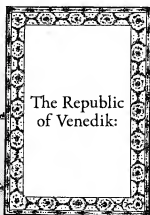


...AMAZING.

YOU'RE
GOING
TO GET
RIPPED
OFF LIKE
THAT.

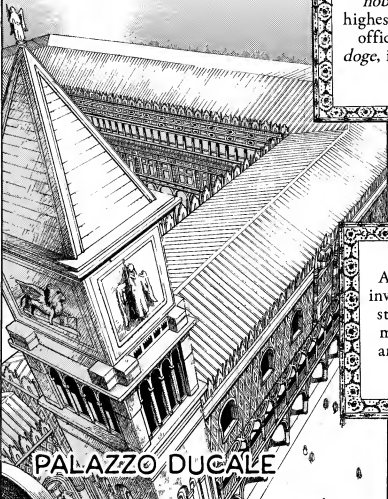


A city-state
resting on a
man-made
island. The
greatest military
and economic
power in all of
Centro was built
upon this
tidal flat.



The Republic
of Venedik:





and through
a vote by these
nobili, the
highest ranking
official, the
doge, is elected.

The city is
governed by
the *consiglio*
(council), made
up of *nobili*
(nobles),



All affairs
involving the
state, both
municipal
and diplo-
matic,

are carried
out inside
specially
provided
chambers
within the
Palazzo
Ducale.

PALAZZO DUCALE



IT IS
GOOD TO
SEE THAT
YOU'VE
MADE
IT HERE
IN ONE
PIECE.

I
WELCOME
YOU,
MAHMUT
PASHA.

PALAZZO DUCALE:
AUDIENCE CHAMBER



YOU ARE
CURRENTLY
A BINBASHU
SERVING UNDER
HALIL PASHA,
IDARECI OF
THE SEVENTH
EYALET, YES?

IF I'M
NOT MIS-
TAKEN,

THE DOGE OF VENEDIK
Antonio Lucio

OH, MY
APOLOGIES.



I SEE
YOU ARE
VERY WELL-
INFORMED.

THAT IS
CORRECT,
DOGE
LUCIO.



ALLOW ME TO
GET STRAIGHT
TO THE POINT.

...



FOR
300
YEARS,

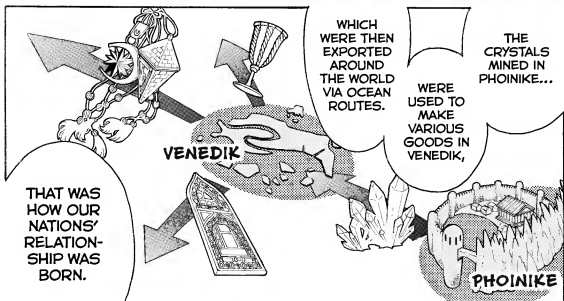
WE
HAVE
CALLED
PHOIN-
IKE OUR
FRIEND,

EVER
SINCE THIS
NATION'S
FOUNDING.



WHAT
EXACTLY
WAS THE
POINT...

...OF THE
ALLIANCE
BETWEEN
VENEDIK AND
PHOINIKE?



WHICH
WERE THEN
EXPORTED
AROUND
THE WORLD
VIA OCEAN
ROUTES.

THE
CRYSTALS
MINED IN
PHOINIKE...

WERE
USED TO
MAKE
VARIOUS
GOODS IN
VENEDIK,

THAT WAS
HOW OUR
NATIONS'
RELATION-
SHIP WAS
BORN.

WHEN A
BILATERAL
ALLIANCE WAS
FORMED.

UNTIL
200
YEARS
AGO,

OUR TWO
NATIONS
GREW MORE
TIGHTLY-KNIT
BY THE
YEAR.

WITH THE
EXPANSION
OF OUR
CITY'S
TRADE
NETWORK,

IN
TIMES
OF WAR,

WOULD
AMASS A
FLEET TO
BE SENT
IMMEDI-
ATELY.

VENE-
DIK,

SHOULD
PHOINIKE
CALL UPON
US FOR
REINFORCE-
MENTS,

AND IN
RETURN,

IN
TIMES
OF PEACE,

AS WELL
AS SERVE
AS A SUPPLY
STATION AND
SAFE HAVEN
FOR MER-
CHANTS.

PHOINIKE
WOULD GIVE
FULL PRIORITY
TO VENEDIK'S
COMMERCIAL
EXPLOITS,

AND YET,
DESPITE THAT,
YOUR FORCES
NEVER
SHOWED.

...



WHA—



NOWHERE
IS IT WRITTEN
THAT THE FLEET
MUST ACTUALLY
ARRIVE.

“...In the
event that
a request for
reinforcements
is made,

a fleet shall
immediately
be dispatched
to the front
lines.”



IS THAT
VENEDIK IS
A NATION OF
LIARS...

SO,
WHAT
YOU'RE
TELLING
ME,

...WHO
WOULD
THINK
NOTHING OF
BREAKING A
TREATY AT
THE FIRST
SIGN OF
DANGER.



...



TUGHRIL
MAHMUT
BINBASHU.



BUT YOU
MUST
LISTEN
CLOSELY
TO WHAT
PEOPLE
SAY.

GAL-
LANTRY
IS ALL
FINE AND
GOOD,



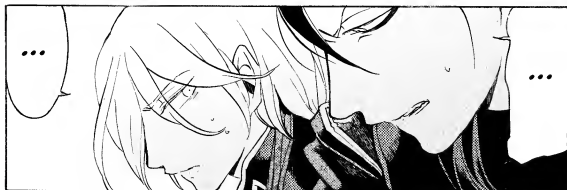
THE TREATY
STATES THE
FOLLOWING...



THAT'S
BASICALLY
OUTRIGHT
DECEPTION!

YOU'VE
GOTTA BE
KIDDING
ME!

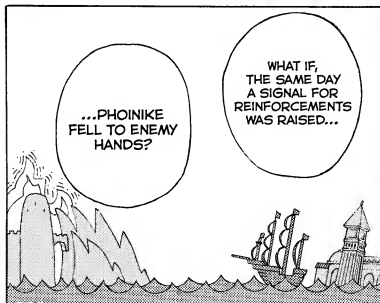
CLUNK



...PHOINIKE
FELL TO ENEMY
HANDS?

WHAT IF,
THE SAME DAY
A SIGNAL FOR
REINFORCEMENTS
WAS RAISED...

YOU
CALL IT
DECEPTION,
BUT
CONSIDER
THE FOLLOWING.





PHOINIKE
DIDN'T
FALL IN
A DAY!

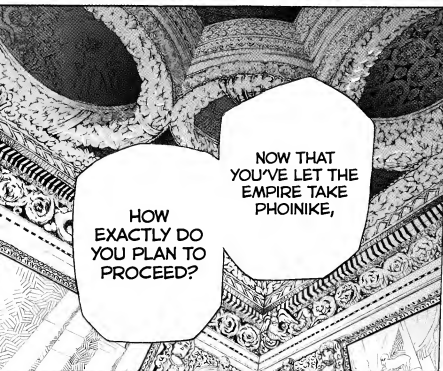
THE
FIGHTING
WENT ON
FOR 17
DAYS!

DON'T TRY
TO TELL
US YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE
ENOUGH
TIME!



CAN
WE
REAL-
LY...

BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE
FOR SUCH AN
OUTCOME?

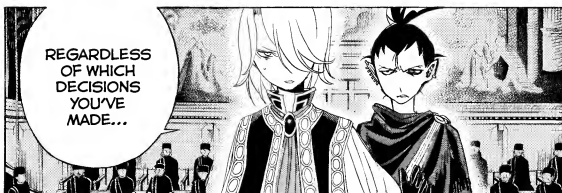


HOW
EXACTLY DO
YOU PLAN TO
PROCEED?

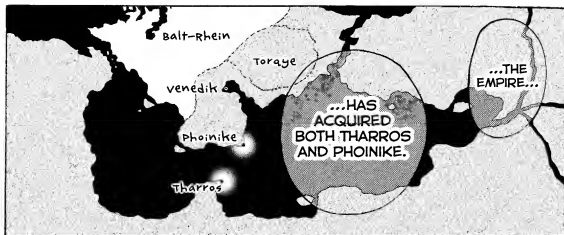
NOW THAT
YOU'VE LET THE
EMPIRE TAKE
PHOINIKE,



DOGE!



REGARDLESS
OF WHICH
DECISIONS
YOU'VE
MADE...



THEY NOW
HOLD TOTAL
CONTROL OVER
WESTERN CENTRO
WATERS.



I ASK
YOU, WHAT DO
YOU MAKE OF
THIS STATE OF
AFFAIRS?!

THIS MUST
COME AS A HARD
BLOW TO A NATION
BUILT ON MARITIME
COMMERCE SUCH
AS VENEDIK.



CANNOT
BE MADE
WITHOUT
CRYSTAL
FROM
PHOINIKE.

MY CITY'S
FAMOUS
VENEDICIAN
GLASS...

INDEED...



...WILL
CONTINUE
TO MINE
HIGH-QUALITY
CRYSTAL FOR
YEARS TO
COME.



HOWEVER,
IT STANDS
TRUE THAT
PHOINIKE...



DO YOU
UNDERSTAND,
MAHMUT BEY?



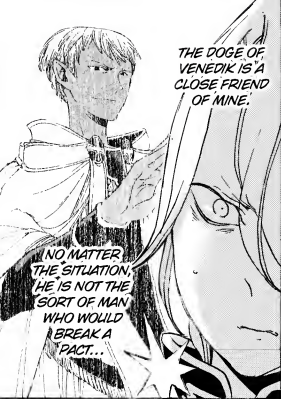


**...WHY
VENEDIK
CANNOT FORM
A COMMERCIAL
TREATY WITH
THE BALT-RHEIN
EMPIRE.**

**THERE
IS NO
REASON...**







THE DOGE OF
VENEDIK IS A
CLOSE FRIEND
OF MINE.

NO MATTER
THE SITUATION,
HE IS NOT THE
SORT OF MAN
WHO WOULD
BREAK A
PACT...



THAT'S
RIGHT...



REGARDING
CROSS-
NATIONAL
AFFAIRS...

...I UNDER-
STAND THAT
WHAT THE
DOGE SAYS
IS CORRECT.

BUT...



IT WAS
NEVER
OUT OF
TRUST,

THAT
WE ALLIED
OURSELVES
WITH
PHOINIKE.

WHY
DO YOU
ASSUME...

UNTIL
THEY TAKE
CONTROL
OF ALL OF
CENTRO?

...THAT
THE
EMPIRE
WON'T
STOP...

DOES
IT NOT
OCCUR
TO YOU...

THEY WILL
CONTINUE
TO FALL,
ONE BY
ONE.

UNLESS
THE REMAINING
11 CITY-STATES
BAND TOGETHER
AGAINST
THE EMPIRE,

DESPITE
THEIR
IMPREGNA-
BLE WALLS,
PHOINIKE
HAS FALLEN.

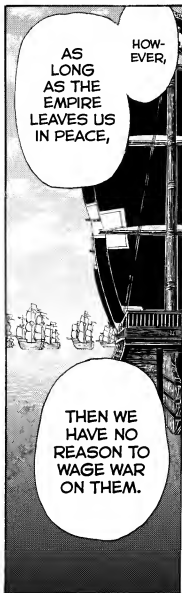
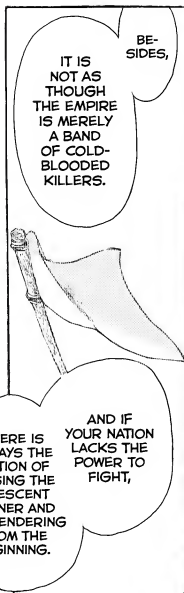
...THAT WE
WILL GO
TO WAR
WITH THE
EMPIRE?

MAHMUT,
BEY?

MIGHT
I ASK
SOME-
THING,

...
THEN
THERE'S
STILL
TIME
TO...

IF YOU
START
PREPA-
RATIONS
IMMEDI-
ATELY,





YEA,
JUST
AS...

THOUGH IT
MAY HAVE
BEEN A BIT
LATE.

...PHOINIKE
SO WISELY
DECIDED
TO DO.



AH...



IN
ORDER TO
RID WAR
FROM HIS
MOTHER-
LAND.

...WAS
A PACIFIST
WHO BECAME
A PASHA...

I'D HEARD
THAT THE
TORQYE
PASHALU'S
MAHMUT
PASHA...



...YOU ARE
QUITE
DIFFERENT
THAN I'D
PICTURED.

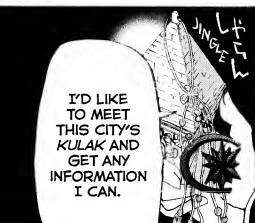
I MUST
SAY...

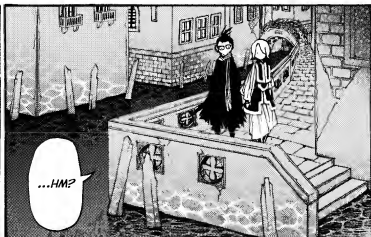
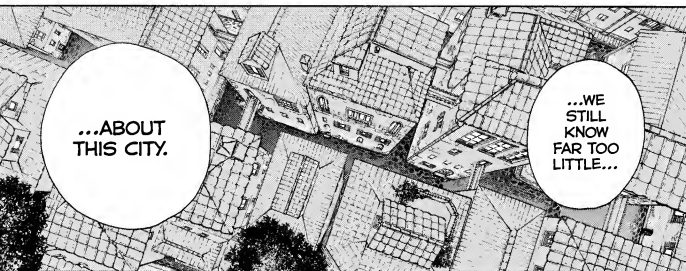
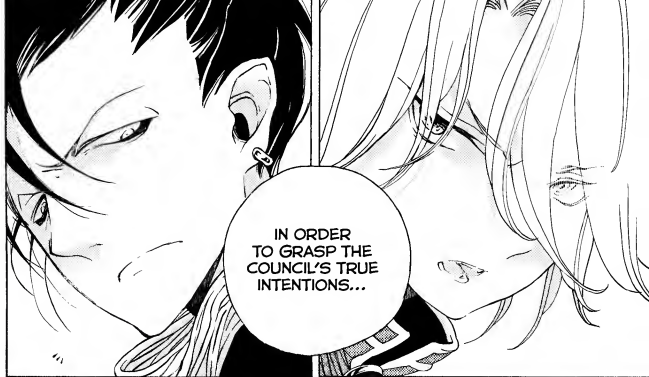


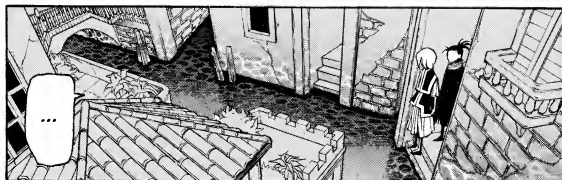
ALL I
SEE...

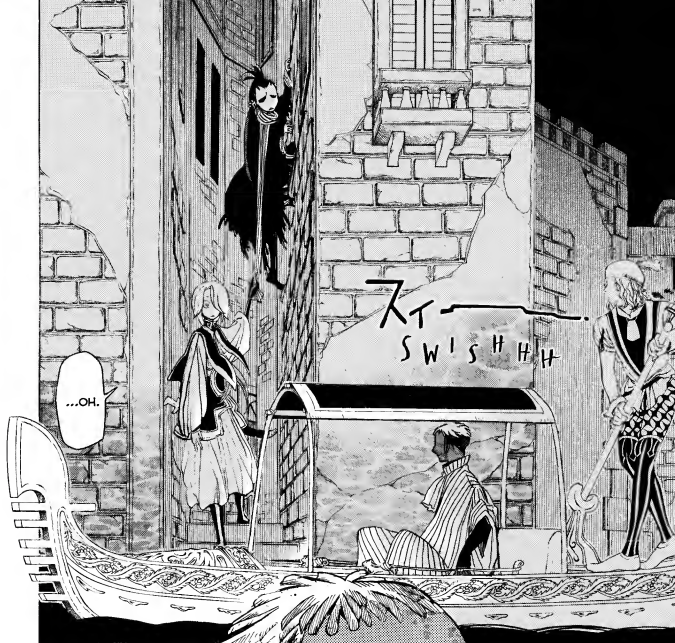
...IS AN
EXTREMIST
MILITANT WHO
CAN THINK OF
NOTHING BUT
CROSSING SWORDS
WITH THE
EMPIRE.









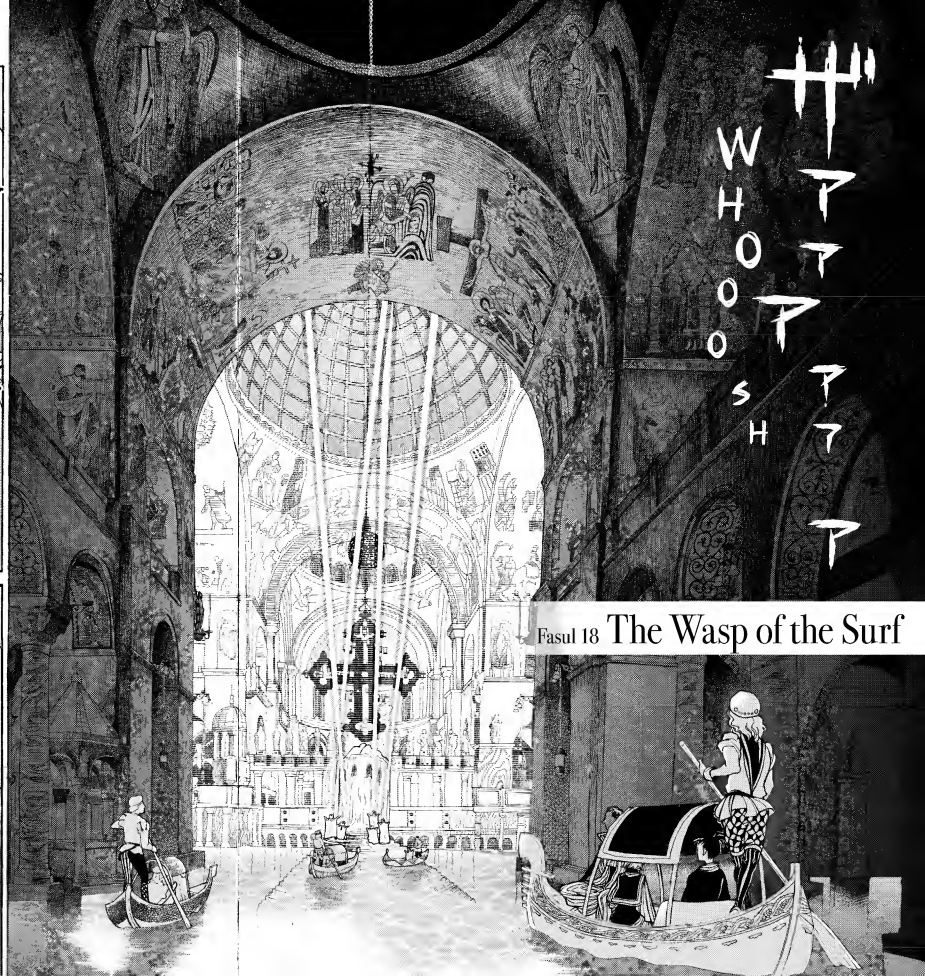


...I'D BE
HAPPY
TO GUIDE
YOU.

IF
YOU'D
LIKE...

THAT
IS OUR
CITY'S
WATER
SHRINE.







AND
SO,

DRIVING
STAKES
INTO THESE
FLATS,
WHERE
ONLY
REEDS
GREW,

THEY
BUILT
THIS
VERY
CITY OF
VENEDIK.

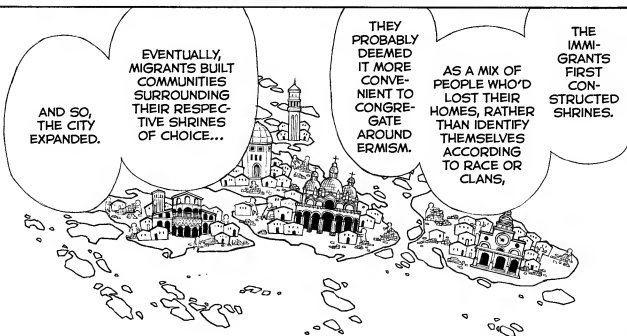


FOLLOWING
THE VENETI
WHO FIRST
SETTLED
HERE,

SEEKING
TO BUILD
NEW
LIVES.

A GREAT
VARIETY OF
PEOPLE
GATHERED
TO THESE
TIDAL
FLATS...

FLEEING
THEIR
HOME-
LANDS,
TOWN
APART BY
INSURREC-
TION AND
PERSECU-
TION,



AND SO,
THE CITY
EXPANDED.

EVENTUALLY,
MIGRANTS BUILT
COMMUNITIES
SURROUNDING
THEIR RESPECTIVE
SHRINES OF CHOICE...

THEY
PROBABLY
DEEMED
IT MORE
CONVE-
NIENT TO
CONGREGATE
AROUND
ERISM.

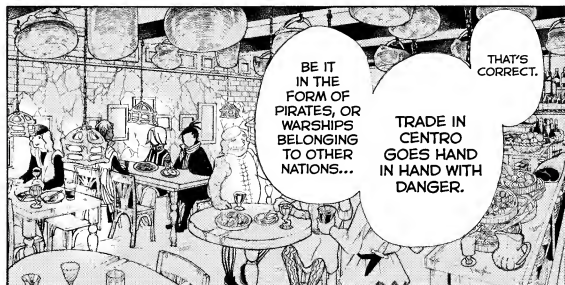
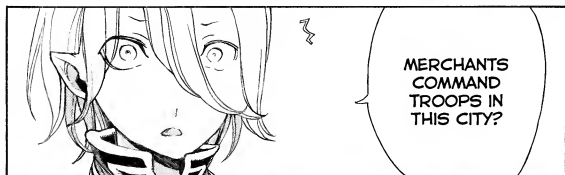
AS A MIX OF
PEOPLE WHO'D
LOST THEIR
HOMES, RATHER
THAN IDENTIFY
THEMSELVES
ACCORDING
TO RACE OR
CLANS,

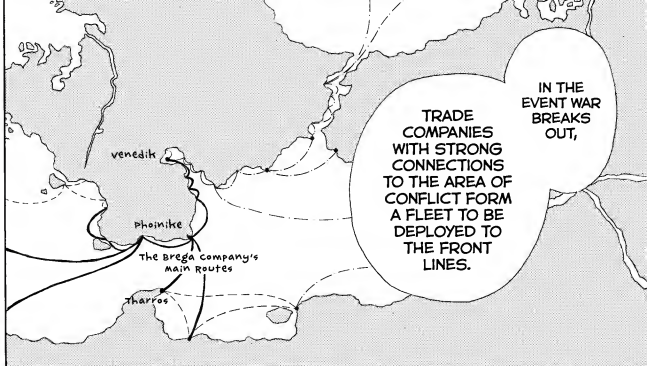
THE
IMMI-
GRANTS
FIRST
CON-
STRUCTED
SHRINES.











IN THE
EVENT WAR
BREAKS
OUT,

TRADE
COMPANIES
WITH STRONG
CONNECTIONS
TO THE AREA OF
CONFLICT FORM
A FLEET TO BE
DEPLOYED TO
THE FRONT
LINES.



HUH... IF
YOU'RE SO
FAMILIAR
WITH THE
TIDES AND
WINDS
AROUND
THERE...

...IT SHOULD
HAVE ONLY
TAKEN YOU FIVE
DAYS MAXIMUM
TO REACH
PHOINIKE.



THE
WATERS
SURROUND-
ING YOUR
HOMELAND OF
PHOINIKE...

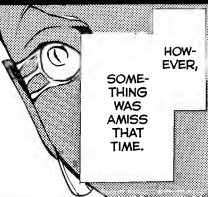
...JUST SO
HAPPENS
TO FALL IN
THE BREGA
COMPANY'S
TERRITORY.

...I MET A
MAN FROM
TORQYE.

DURING
A ROUND
OF PIRATE
HUNTING
NEAR
PHOINIKE...

FIVE
YEARS
AGO,

ALLOW
ME TO
CUT TO
THE
CHASE.





ABOARD
THAT SHIP,
SWARMING
WITH PIRATES...

...A SINGLE
CIVILIAN MAN
FOUGHT ALL
BY HIMSELF.



SULEYMAN
BEY?!

HE GOT
HIMSELF
CAUGHT UP
IN SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT AFTER
I SET HIM
FREE...?



CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2

CHARTER
2



DON'T
MOVE!

DO I
LOOK
IN-
JURED?



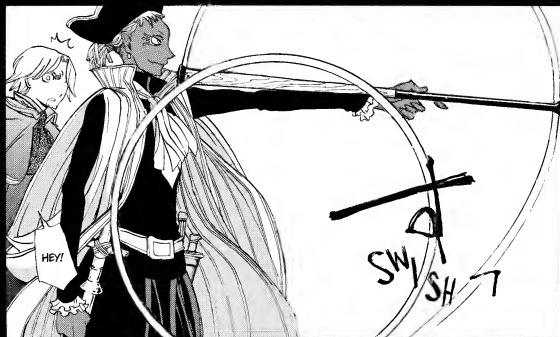
I'M WITH
THE BREGA
COMPANY OF
VENEDIK.
ARE YOU
IN-
JURED?



YOU AND
THAT MAN
GET THE
HELL OFF
THIS BOAT,
NOW!

JE-
SOLIER!

CALL OFF
YOUR BIRD,
FALCONER!



YOU...

YOU THINK
I'LL FALL
FOR A BLUFF
LIKE THAT?!

...I CAN
THINK OF
DOZENS OF
WAYS TO
KILL YOU
AND YOU
ALONE.

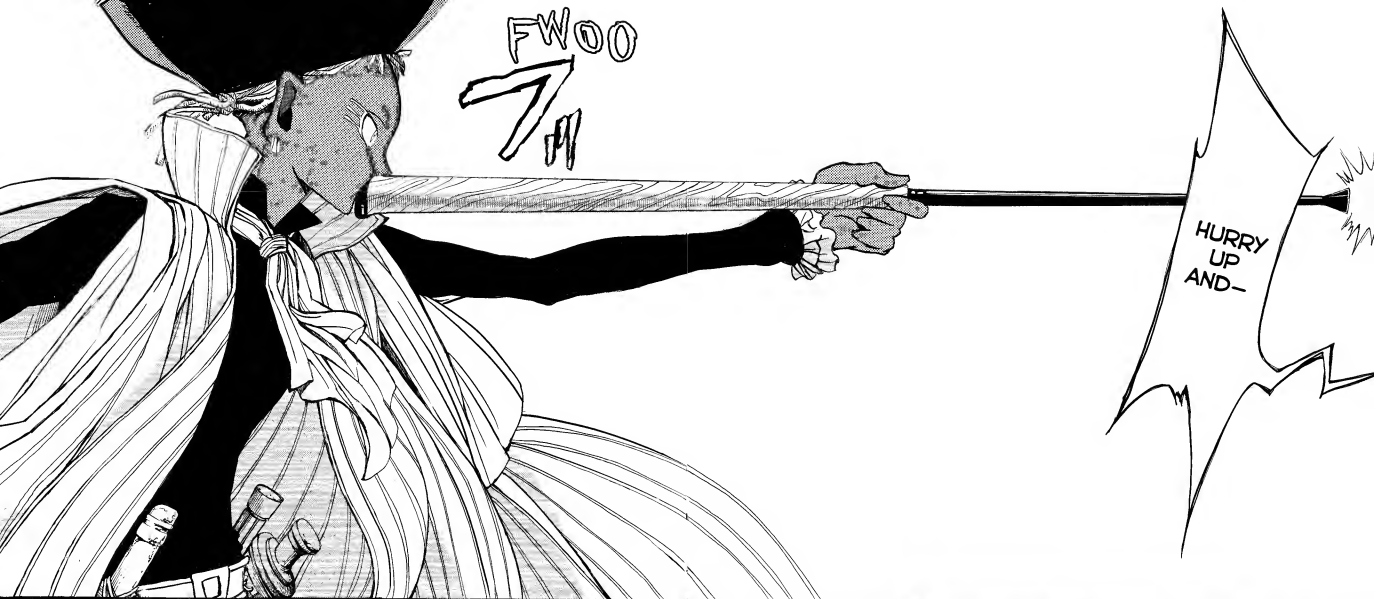
IN THE
TIME IT
TAKES YOU
TO HARM
THAT GIRL...

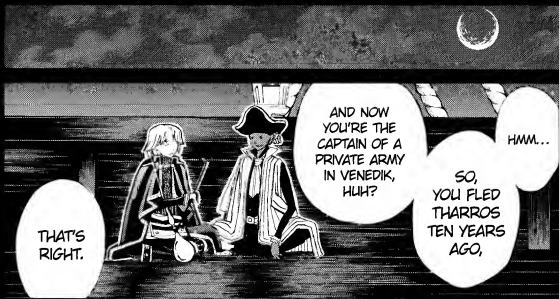


I AM A
TRAINED
SOLDIER.

FROM
WRESTLING
TO SIEGE
COMBAT.

I'M
VERSED
IN EVERY
ART OF
WAR.





THE KING WAS
A DICTATOR, AND
THE ONLY ONES IN
WEALTH WERE HIM
AND HIS COHORTS.

CONDITIONS
IN THARROS
WERE AWFUL.



IT'S A MAJOR
CITY,

AND
THE
PAY IS
GOOD.

COMPARED
TO THAT,
VENEDIK IS
HEAVEN.

I CAN PAY
YOU MORE
THAN YOU'RE
EARNING
NOW.

WOULD
YOU BE
INTERESTED
IN DOING A
LITTLE WORK
ON THE
SIDE?

HOW
ABOUT
THIS.





THAT'S
RIGHT. IT'S
AN INTEREST-
ING OFFER,
RIGHT?

YOU'RE
CREATING
A SPY
NETWORK?

WOULD YOU
BE WILLING TO
LEND ME YOUR
SKILLS?



ALLOW
ME TO SHOW
YOU SOME-
THING.

BEFORE I
GIVE YOU AN
ANSWER,

SULEYMAN
BEY...



VICIOUS DROUGHT
IN THARROS.

LOOKING TO INCREASE
IMPORT OF FRESH WATER
AND RICE CROPS.

THAT
THERE IS THE
INFORMARE.

THEY'RE
SET UP IN
EVERY PORT.
VENEDIK DOES
BUSINESS
WITH.

*INFORMARE: NOTICE BOARD

SEVERAL PIRATE
FLEET SIGHTINGS
IN TOLO WATERS.

ALWAYS STAY
ARMED AND ALERT.



IS THE
CASTELLO,
AN EMBASSY
USED TO ENSURE
VENEDIK'S
BUSINESS
ENDEAVORS
PROCEED
SMOOTHLY.

AND THIS,
ALSO BUILT
IN EVERY
PORT,



AND SHARE
ANY AND ALL
INFORMATION
THEY MIGHT HAVE
ACQUIRED WHILE
AT SEA.

HAS
A DUTY TO
FIRST STOP
AT THIS
CASTELLO...

UPON
DOCKING,
EVERY
COMPANY'S
CAPTAIN...



YOU'VE
ALREADY GOT
IMPLEMENTED
NATION-WIDE,
HUH?

SO, WHAT
I'M JUST
GETTING
STARTED
ON,

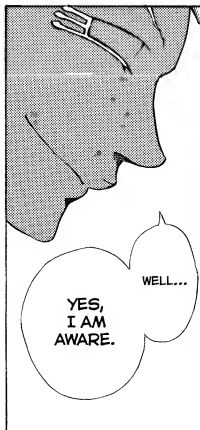
I'LL
BE
DAMNED...



...

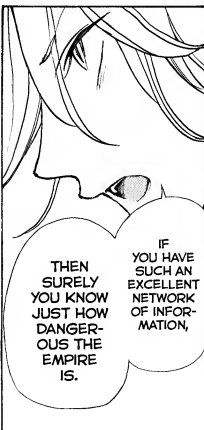
I'LL
BET THAT
STUMPED
SULEYMAN
BEY!

HAH!



YES,
I AM
AWARE.

WELL...



THEN
SURELY
YOU KNOW
JUST HOW
DANGER-
OUS THE
EMPIRE
IS.

IF
YOU HAVE
SUCH AN
EXCELLENT
NETWORK
OF INFOR-
MATION,





...WHILE
MAKING THE
DECISIONS
HE HAS.

HAS
HAD ALL
THAT
INFORMATION
IN
MIND...

AND
I'M SURE
THAT OUR
DOGE,
TOO,



...WHO
WOULD
JOIN YOUR
CAUSE.

THERE
IS NOT A
SINGLE
SOUL IN
VENEDIK...

SULEYMAN
BEY.



ARE A GROUP
OF PEOPLE WHO
CAN ONLY LIVE
FOR THE SAKE
OF VENEDIK.

VENEDI-
CIANS...



...FOR
SOME OTHER
COUNTRY.

WHO
WOULD THINK
TO BETRAY
THE VERY
CITY THAT
GAVE THEM
A PLACE TO
BELONG...

THERE
IS NOT A
SINGLE
PERSON IN
VENEDIK...



IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHO
THE OTHER
PARTY MAY
BE.

THAT
IS ALL
WE THE
CITIZENS
AND THE
DOGE ARE
THINKING
ABOUT.

HOW TO
ASSOCIATE WITH
OTHER NATIONS
IN ORDER TO
BEST BENEFIT
OUR OWN
NATION...



VENEDIK
IS EQUALLY
UNSUPPORTIVE
OF EVERY
OTHER
NATION.

IN OTHER
WORDS,



KEH!

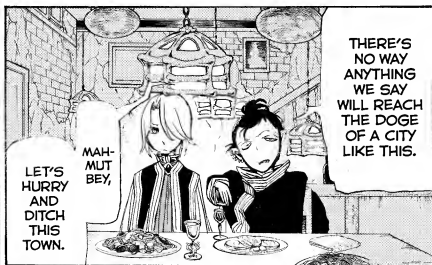


CORRECT.

EVEN
IF THEY
HAPPEN
TO BE AN
ALLY.



OH...



LET'S
HURRY
AND
DITCH
THIS
TOWN.

MAH-
MUT
BEY,

THERE'S
NO WAY
ANYTHING
WE SAY
WILL REACH
THE DOGE
OF A CITY
LIKE THIS.



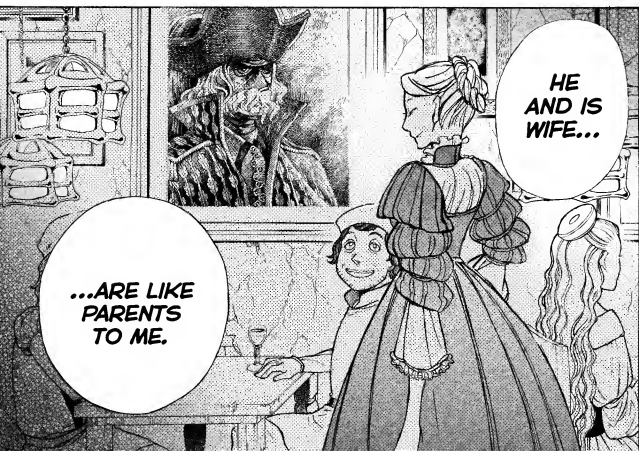
I TAKE IT
VENEDIK
WASN'T
TO YOUR
LIKING?

THAT'S A
SHAME.



I SEE
YOU'VE
SOME
UNUSUAL
COMPANY
TODAY.

WEL-
COME!



GASP

SNAP

BUT
HE IS
HORRIBLY
MALNOUR-
ISHED.

HE'S
FROM
THARROS...

HE
DOESN'T
SEEM TO
BE BADLY
INJURED.

GRAB

SLASH

!?

THUD

DAMNED
BRAT!



CAPTAN!



The doctor, surely!

This way!

...?

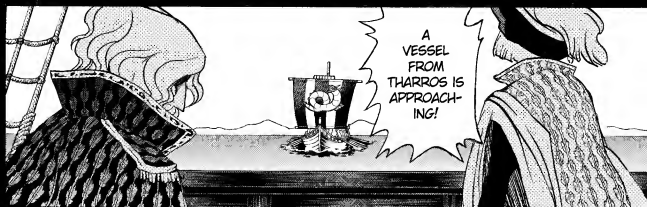
WHO'RE YOU?



Capi-
tan!

Are
you all
right,
Capi-
tan!

...



A
VESSEL
FROM
THARROS IS
APPROACH-
ING!



I DON'T
SUPPOSE YOU
INTEND TO
MAKE OFF WITH
MY PRECIOUS
MERCHANDISE,
DO YOU?

MY, MY, IF
IT ISN'T A
CAPTAN OF
VENEDIK.



THERE'S
ENOUGH IN
HERE TO BUY
FIVE SLAVES.

I TRUST
THIS SHOULD
SUFFICE.



...IS
WORTH
INVESTING
IN.

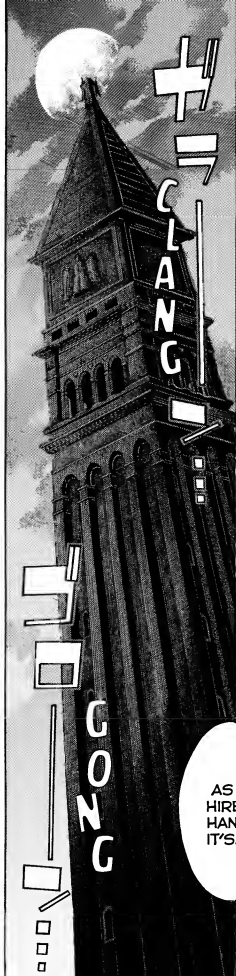


THIS
BOY'S
STRENGTH...



CAPTAIN?!

?!



MY FREEDOM
WAS BOUGHT
WITH THOSE
148 DUCATS.

THAT'S
WHY, WHILE
THE CAPTAIN
LIVES,



I
PLAN TO
PAY HIM
BACK IN
FULL.

AS A
HIRED
HAND,
IT'S...







...REGARDING
THE REPAY-
MENT OF THE
270 DUCATS I
LOANED YOU.

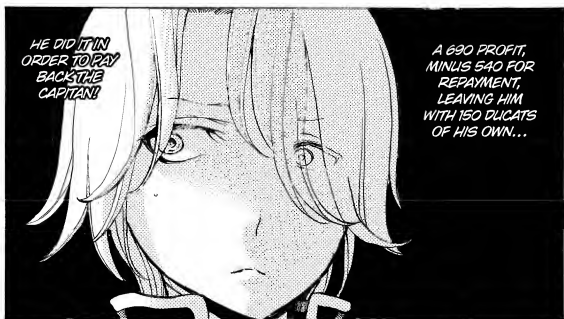
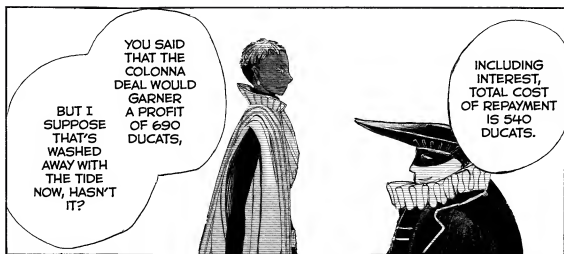
I'VE
COME
SEEKING
YOUR
URGENT
REPLY...

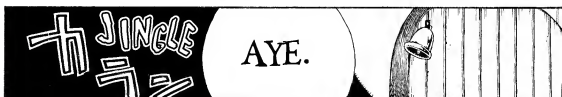
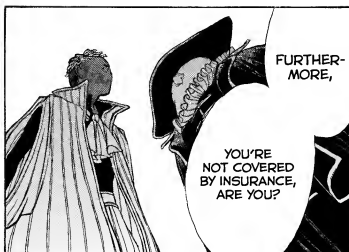


...AND
IS OWES
ME A DEBT
OF 270
DUCATS.

THIS
MAN INVESTED
BORROWED MONEY
IN A SPICE DEAL
THE COLONNA
COMPANY WAS
TO CARRY OUT
IN THE PORT
OF CONTI...

YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW,
MA'AM?





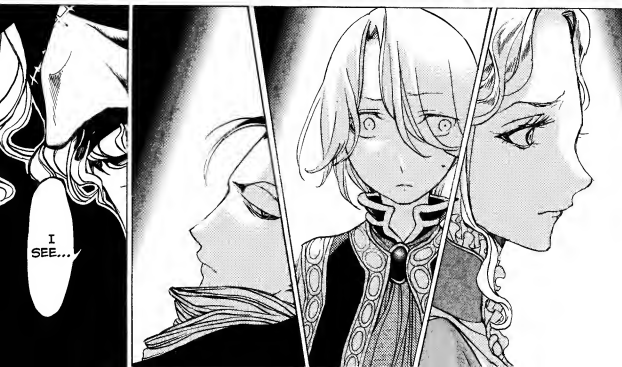


YOU ARE
IN VIOLATION
OF REPUBLIC
LEGGE DITTA*.

THOSE
EMPLOYED BY
A SPECIFIC
COMPANY...

...ARE
PROHIBITED
FROM INVESTING
IN DEALINGS
OF ANOTHER
COMPANY.

*LEGGE DITTA: COMPANY LAW



I
SEE...



...I
CAN'T
SAY.



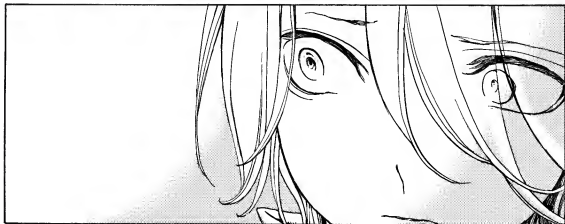
ABIRI-
GA...

WHY DID
YOU DO
THIS?



REGARDLESS
OF YOUR
REASONS...

...YOU
WILL BE
EXILED
FROM
VENEDIK.

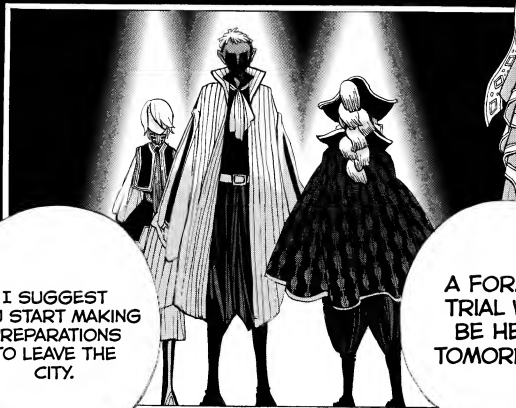




...CANNOT
ESCAPE
BANISHMENT,
REGARDLESS
OF THE
REASON.



THOSE
WHO
VIOLATE
LEGGE
DITTA...



I SUGGEST
YOU START MAKING
PREPARATIONS
TO LEAVE THE
CITY.

A FORMAL
TRIAL WILL
BE HELD
TOMORROW.



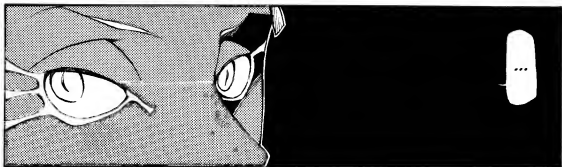
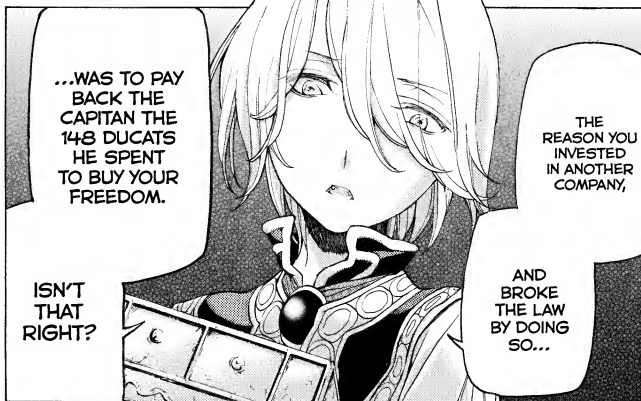
Fasul 19 A Masque of Sincerity

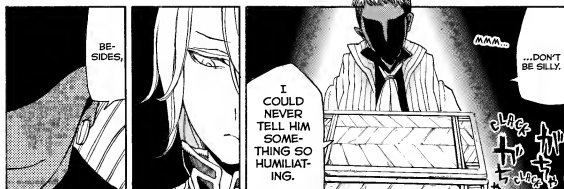


WHY...

WON'T YOU
TELL THE
CAPTAIN
YOUR REAL
REASON?

MISTER
ABIRI-
GA...





BE-SIDES,

I
COULD
NEVER
TELL HIM
SOME-
THING SO
HUMILIAT-
ING.

mmm...

...DON'T
BE SILLY.

click
clack
clack

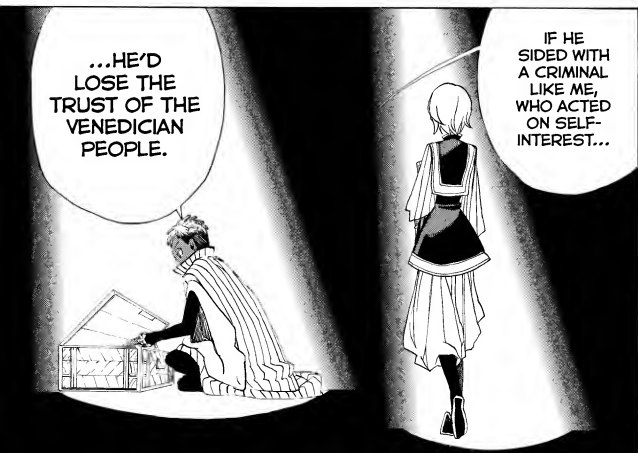


...THEN
HE WOULD
TRY TO
HELP ME.

IF I DID
TELL THE
CAPTAIN...



?!



...HE'D
LOSE THE
TRUST OF THE
VENEDICIAN
PEOPLE.

IF HE
SIDED WITH
A CRIMINAL
LIKE ME,
WHO ACTED
ON SELF-
INTEREST...



EVERY PERSON
IN THIS CITY...



THEY'RE
COLD-HEARTED...

...UNFEELING
RATIONALISTS.



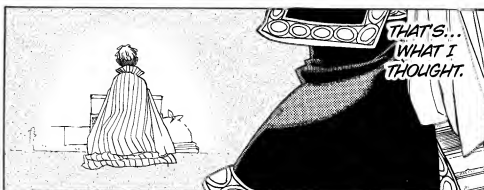
IF NEEDED, THEY
WON'T THINK
TWICE TO BETRAY
THEIR FRIENDS.



...PUTS
VENEDIK
FIRST AND
FOREMOST.



BUT...



THAT'S...
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

...I WAS WRONG.



...REPUBLIC
OF VENEDIK,

...THIS COLD,
FLAWLESS...

WHILE THEY
TRULY LOVE...



IF IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF
SOMEONE THEY CHERISH...

...WHEN THEY,
TOO, CAN ACT
ON IRRATIONAL
EMOTIONS.

...THEN THERE
ARE TIMES...



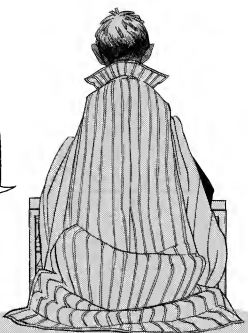
YOU
HAVE
A DEBT
OF 540
DUCATS
TO PAY.



DO YOU
PLAN TO
DO?

WHAT
EXACT-
LY...





I MAY BE
FORCED TO DO
HARD LABOR TO THE
MINES TO THE NORTH,
OR I MAY BE SOLD
BACK INTO SLAVERY
TO SOME FARAWAY
COUNTRY.

GOOD
QUESTION.

I SUPPOSE
I'LL BE SPENDING
MOST OF MY LIFE
PAYING OFF
THAT LOAN.

IT
CAN'T
BE
HELPED.

I'M
BEING
EX-
ILED.

THEN
YOU'LL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
RETURN,
WILL
YOU?

BUT
IF
YOU
DO
THAT,

...TO
REPAY THE
CAPTAIN'S
KINDNESS.

MY
ONLY
REGRET...

IS THAT
I MIGHT
NEVER BE
ABLE...



PLEASE
COME
WITH US.

YOU ARE
TO BE
DETAINED
UNTIL
THE TRIAL
BEGINS.

WE HAVE
COME TO
ESCORT YOU,
MISTER
ABIRIGA.



IF YOU
FOLLOW THIS
MAP, YOU'LL
REACH THE
ACCOMMODA-
TIONS THAT
HAVE BEEN
PREPARED
FOR YOU.

WELL,
THEN.

THANKS
FOR GIVING
ME A HAND.



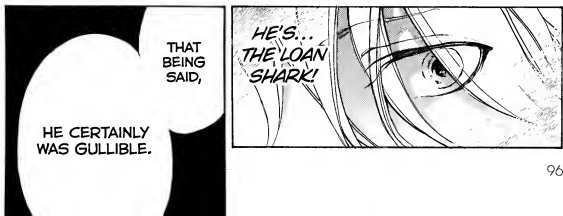
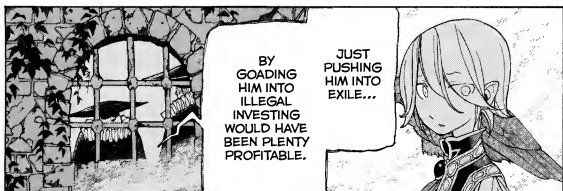
pop / ぽ
h
...



SURE.

I'M
ALL
DONE
PACK-
ING.







"THE
CAPTAN
ONLY HAS
THREE
MONTHS
TO LIVE
DUE TO AN
INTESTINAL
DISEASE."

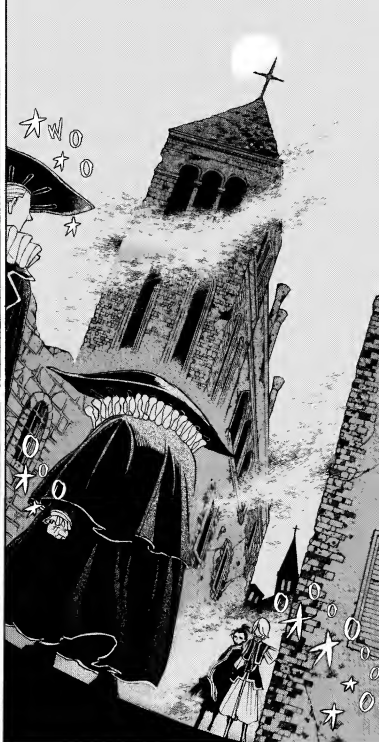
WHO
WOULD
BELIEVE
SUCH A
TAWDRY
LIE?



THARRO-
SAYS
REALLY
ARE A
SIMPLE
LOT.

I
SWEAR







I'M
SUR-
PRISED
YOU'RE
SO
LOOSE-
LIPPED.

TO BE
HONEST,
HE WAS
AN EYE-
SORE.

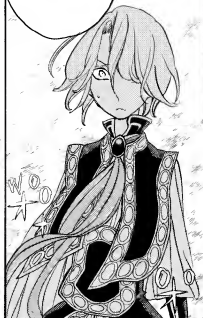
ABIRIGA IS A
RIGHTEOUS
MAN, WHO HAS
DONE IN A
NUMBER OF MY
ASSOCIATES.

OUR
LINE OF
WORK
ISN'T NECE-
SSARILY
PRISTINE,
YOU
SEE.



IT'S
EXACTLY
AS YOU
THINK.

WE SET
ABIRIGA
UP.



...I'LL
KEEP
QUIET
ABOUT
THIS?



DO YOU
REALLY
THINK...

...THEN
BY ALL
MEANS,
DO SO.



IF YOU
WISH TO
SPEAK
OF IT...



TELLING A
LIE THAT
LEAVES NO
EVIDENCE,

ESTAB-
LISHING HIGH
INTEREST
RATES WITH
THE CONSENT
OF BOTH
PARTIES,

CONTINUING
TO DO BUSI-
NESS WITH
SOMEONE
YOU KNOW
IS BREAK-
ING THE
LAW...

NONE
OF THESE
THINGS...

ARE IN
VIOLATION
VENEDICIAN
LAW.

...
HUH?

I
DON'T
KNOW HOW
THINGS
ARE IN
TORQYE,
BUT...

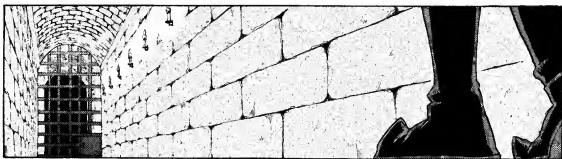


...YOU,
TOO,
SHOULD
KNOW...

THAT
ONLY THE
LAW CAN
DETERMINE
WHAT IS
GOOD AND
EVIL.

AS
SOMEONE
WHO SERVES
YOUR
COUNTRY...



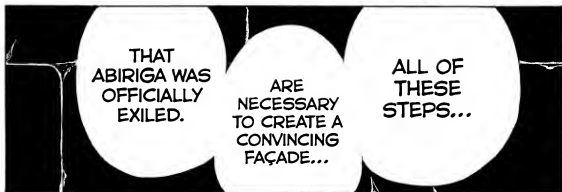




WON'T THAT GATHER UN-WANTED ATTENTION?

IF HE LEAVES THE COUNTRY ALL OF A SUDDEN,

THERE ISN'T A SOUL IN THIS CITY WHO DOES NOT KNOW OF ABIRIGA'S VALOR.

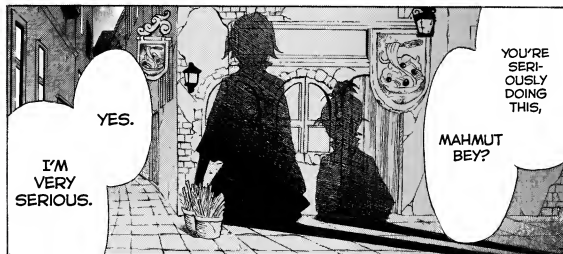




...ABOVE
ALL,

**HE'LL
HAVE
NEED
OF ME.**

WHETHER
OR NOT,



YES.

I'M
VERY
SERIOUS.

YOU'RE
SERI-
OUSLY
DOING
THIS,

MAHMUT
BEY?





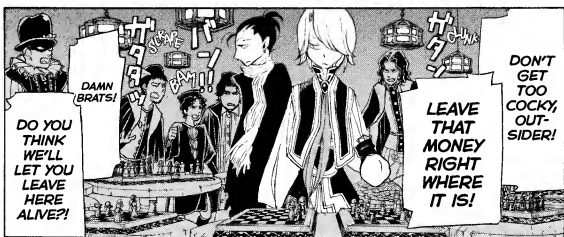
SHAH
MAT.
(CHECKMATE)

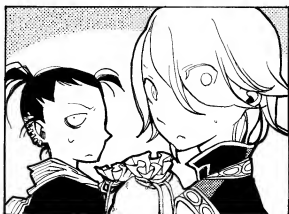
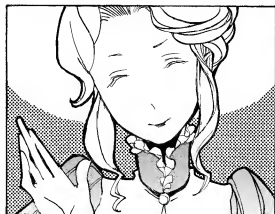
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
WAGERED
MONEY ON
IT, THOUGH.

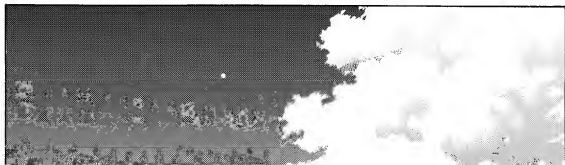
CHESS WAS
A PART OF
MY MILITARY
TRAINING.

...THAT'S
SOME
HOBBY
YOU'VE
GOT
THERE.

FOR A
GOODY-
TWO-
SHOES...









IN
THE
END,

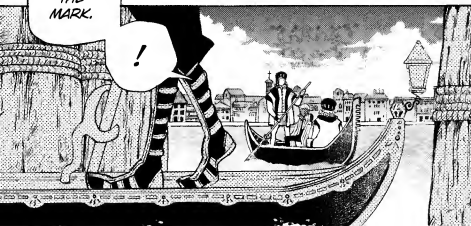
MAHMLUT
BEY
NEVER
SHOWED.

I
GUESS
OUR
SCHEME
MISSED
THE
MARK.

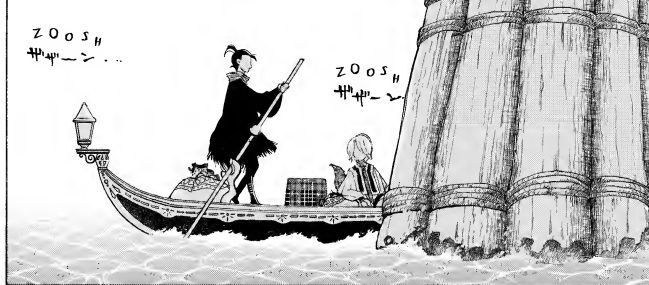


JUST...

ONE
HOUR
LEFT UNTIL
WE DEPART.



!



BUT
BECAUSE
THERE IS
SOMETHING
I WOULD
LIKE ALL
OF YOU
TO HEAR.

NOT
TO GIVE
MISTER
ABIRIGA A
SEND-OFF,

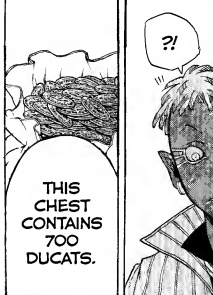
WERE
ALL
CALLED
HERE
BY ME.

AND THE
USURER,
MISTER
MORO,

HIS
WIFE,
MISS
CECILIA,

CAPITAN
BREGA,





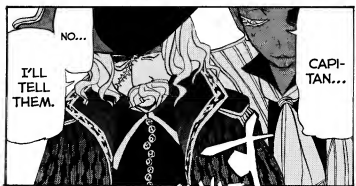
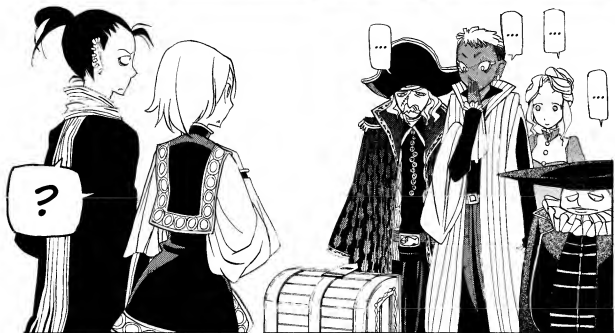
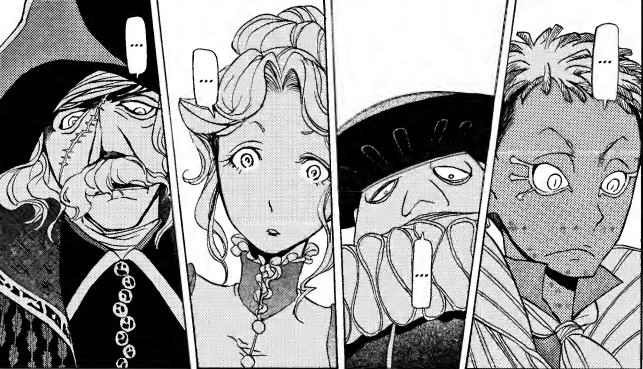
THIS
CHEST
CONTAINS
700
DUCATS.



...THAT
EVEN
SULEYMAN
BEY
COVETED!

...WON'T
YOU LEND
YOUR
STRENGTH
TO ME?

THE
SAME
STRENGTH...



SWIFT

WE
DECIDED
TO TEST
YOU.

ALLOW
ME TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR MY
RUDENESS,
MAHMUT
BEY.

?!
..

You mean everything until now was an act?!

What
the
hell is
that?!

What

..

IN
ORDER
TO LIVE
THROUGH
THESE
CHAOTIC
TIMES...



I ASK
THAT YOU
ALLOW
ABIRIGA TO
ACCOMPANY
YOU.

AND TO
SERVE AS
A PIPELINE
BETWEEN
VENEDIK AND
TORQYE,



...WE HAVE
DECIDED THAT
AN ALLIANCE
WITH THE TORQYE
PASHALU MAY
ALSO BE IN
ORDER IN THE
NEAR-FUTURE.



AND...

IF I
REFUSE?



HUH?
WHAT
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU ON
ABOUT?

AS IF
WE CAN
BELIEVE
A SINGLE
WORD
YOU SAY.



I SEE...
REGARD-
LESS OF
WHETHER
THAT'S
TRUE OR
NOT,

IN
THAT
CASE...



ABIRIGA
CAN'T BE
ALLOWED
TO STAY IN
THE CITY.

I WILL
LIKELY
HAVE
HIM
STUDY
ABROAD.

SEEING
AS THE
PREPARATIONS
FOR HIS EXILE
HAVE ALREADY
BEEN MADE,

THAT I
VALUE HIS
ABILITIES.

THE
FACT
STILL
STANDS...

...THEN
WITH
THIS
MONEY,

I'D
LIKE TO
BUY MISTER
ABIRIGA'S
SERVICES
FROM
YOU.

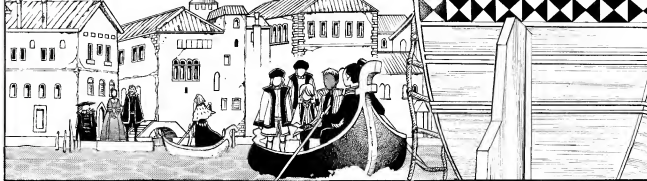
WON'T YOU
CONSIDER
SELLING
HIM TO ME
INSTEAD?

IF
YOU'RE
JUST
GOING TO
SEND HIM
ABROAD,

WHA?!

!





...A
BETTER
OUTCOME
THAN I EX-
PECTED.
DESPITE
HIS YOUTH,
HE CAME
TO THIS
DECISION,
FULLY AWARE
OF OUR IN-
TENTIONS.

WELL,
THIS
WAS...



SWISH



IT SEEMS
HE'S STILL
CAPABLE OF
DEVISING
REALISTIC
SOLUTIONS.

FOR SUCH
A BRAZEN
IDEALIST,

HE'S
GOOD.



TUGHRIL
MAHMUT...

I ONLY HOPE
HE DOES NOT
BETRAY OUR
EXPECTATIONS.



AS
LONG
AS HIS
IDEALS
DON'T
CLOUD
REALITY,

HE'LL
MAKE
A FAR
BETTER
POLITI-
CIAN...

...THAN
THE
FORMER
MAGIS-
TROS OF
PHOINIKE.



THEY, TOO, FEEL
AS ANYONE ELSE.



EVEN SO,



*AND
FRIENDS...*



FATHERS,

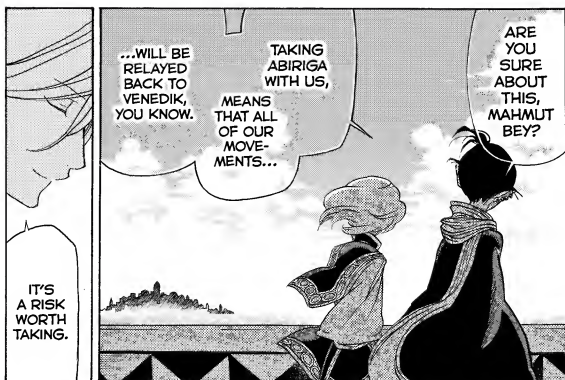


*BEFORE
THEY ARE
SONS,*



*...THEY ARE VENEDICIANS,
FIRST AND FOREMOST.*



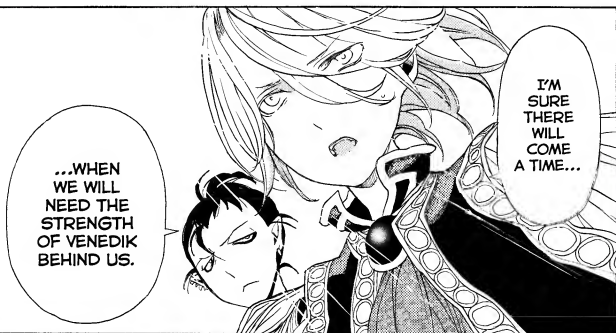


...WILL BE
RELAYED
BACK TO
VENEDIK,
YOU KNOW.

TAKING
ABIRIGA
WITH US,
MEANS
THAT ALL
OF OUR
MOVE-
MENTS...

ARE
YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THIS,
MAHMUT
BEY?

IT'S
A RISK
WORTH
TAKING.



...WHEN
WE WILL
NEED THE
STRENGTH
OF VENEDIK
BEHIND US.

I'M
SURE
THERE
WILL
COME
A TIME...



IT'S A
SMALL
PRICE
TO PAY.

FOR
THAT,



I'VE SEEN
ENOUGH
OCEAN
TO LAST A
LIFETIME.

LET'S
SEE...



WHERE
SHALL
WE SET
SAIL
TO?

PADRONE?

PADRONE: MASTER

WHAT SAY
WE HEAD
BACK TO
LAND?



Altair:
A Record
of Battles



to be continued...



The rest of this volume includes my debut work.

Shortly before I wrote this story, a member of the editing staff told me, "Your work still lacks impact, so while your stories are clever on a surface-level, they don't strike a chord with people. I want you to write something you genuinely think is really good." I took that advice to heart, and began to write while seriously contemplating, "What do I think is good? What about a story makes me like it?" This story is the result. While it's very rough around the edges, I hope you'll enjoy it nonetheless.

ASSISTANTS

YOSHIZAWA ANNA

KANEKO CHIEMI

SAITO MINA

YABE HITOMI

KOIKE AKEMI

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IMAI MIDORI

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EDITOR

YAMAGUCHI TAKASHI

EDITOR (Book work)

SUGIYAMA RIKI

DESIGNER

SAKAGAMI KAZUYA (RAZZO)

SPECIAL THANKS

INARI SENO

AND FAMILY
AND YOU!!

ANASTASIA'S



**CAPTAIN
OF THE GUARD**

1917

The Russian Revolution resulted in the down-fall of the Romanov dynasty.



...were executed by the revolutionary army.

The tsar, along with his family...

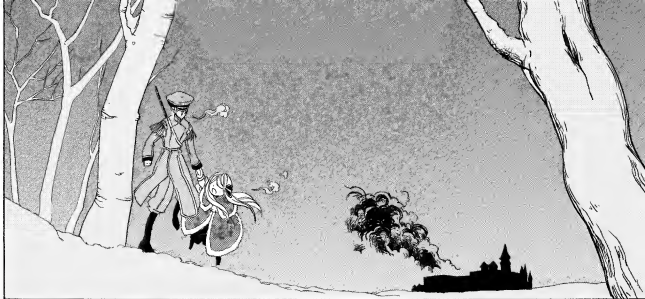


However,



among
the corpses
of the imperial
family, only
that belonging
to the young-
est child,
Anastasia...

...was
never
found.



PRINCESS
Anastasia

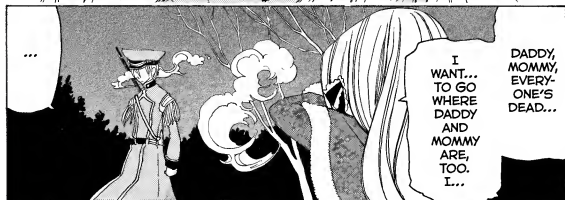
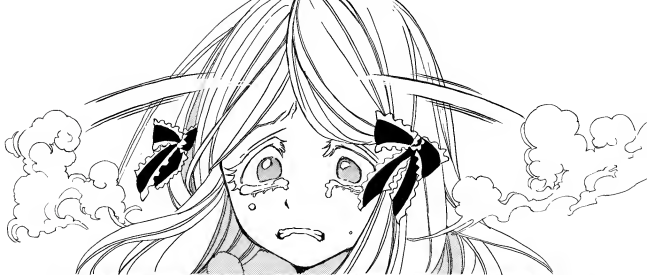


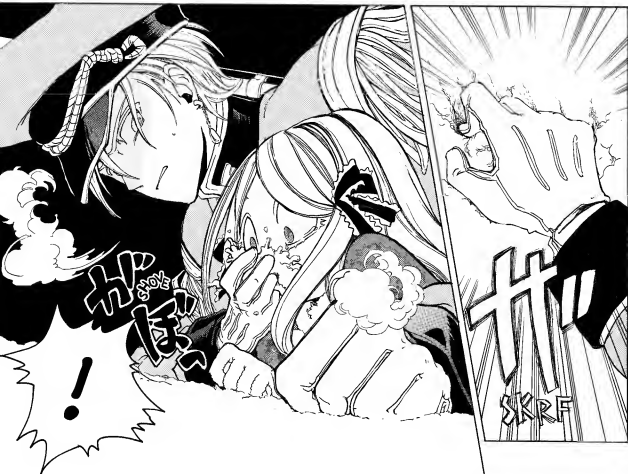
WE'VE
MANAGED
TO THROW
OFF THE
REBELS
FOR NOW,

BUT
IT'S ONLY
A MATTER
OF TIME
UNTIL THEY
CATCH UP.

WE
MUST
HURRY!

IMPERIAL GUARD CADET
Dmitry Zaytsev







BUT KEEP
THAT SNOW
IN YOUR
MOUTH AND
LISTEN TO
ME.



I
KNOW
IT'S
COLD,

WAS ABLE
TO DISCERN
OUR LOCATION
JUDGING BY
OUR BREATH.

IT'S
LIKELY
THAT THE
SNIPER...



THE
REVOLU-
TIONARY
ARMY HAS A
TOP-CLASS
SNIPER
IN THEIR
RANKS.

WE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
COMPLETELY
IN THE SNIPER'S
BLIND SPOT
JUST NOW.

JUDGING
FROM
THAT
GUNSHOT,



WE
MUST
HURRY.



THE
BREATH
VANISHED.



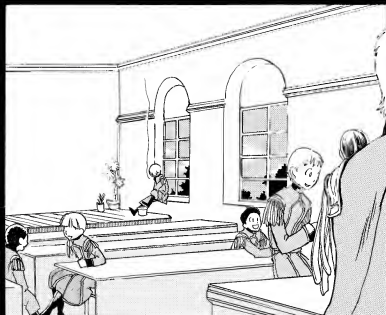
OR
MERE
BEAST.

MEANING
THAT WAS
NO LOCAL
FARMER,





One
Year
Ago



Imperial
Guard
Training
Academy



an
outcast
of the
academy.

Dmitry
Zaytsev
(Imperial
Guard
Cadet),

SHUT UP.

YOU REEK,

LARD-BALL.

SHUT UP.

YOU REEK,

LARD-BALL.

SHUT UP.

YOU REEK,

LARD-BALL.

YOU SHOULDN'T SMOKE IN THE CLASS, MAN.

YOU'LL... BOTHER THE OTHER STUDENTS.

YOU...

YOU SHOULDN'T SMOKE IN THE CLASS, MAN.

YOU'LL... BOTHER THE OTHER STUDENTS.

YOU...

DMITRY
ZAYTSEV.

[illegible]

A black and white manga panel depicting a character in a trench coat running away from the viewer down a long, brightly lit hallway with many windows on the right side. Above the runner's head, the words "WELSH SHUT" are written in a stylized font. To the right, a large speech bubble contains the text "HEY, SOMEONE GET HELP! POTEMKIN'S GOING NUTS!". Another smaller speech bubble at the top right says "Gyaaaaahhh!". On the far right edge, there is some vertical Japanese text.

A black and white manga panel depicting a character in a long coat running away from the viewer down a perspective-lined hallway. The character has their mouth open as if shouting. Above them, the words "WELSH SHUT" are written in a jagged speech bubble. To the right, a large, irregular speech bubble contains the text "HEY, SOMEONE GET HELP! POTEKIN'S GOING NUTS!". Above this bubble, there's a small sound effect "Gyaaaaahhh!". To the far right, another jagged shape contains the sound effects "KA-TUNN" and "CRASH!".

WELSH
SHUT

Gyaaaaahhh!

HEY,
SOMEONE
GET HELP!
POTEKIN'S
GOING
NUTS!

KA-
TUNN

CRASH!

A black and white manga panel showing a character running down a long hallway. The character is wearing a coat and has a determined expression. A large speech bubble contains the text: "HEY, SOMEONE GET HELP! POTEKIN'S GOING NUTS!". Above the character, there is a small sound effect "WELSH SHUT". To the right, another sound effect "Gyaaaaahhh!" is written.

AND THOSE WHO CAN'T DO WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO ARE THE SCUM OF SOCIETY.

THAT MEANS YOU.

YOU ARE SCUM.

SCUM!

WHAT'S WITH THE ACCESSORIES?

AND ANOTHER THING,

THAT EARRING,

AND THAT HAIR-STYLE,

ARE BOTH IN VIOLATION OF THE DRESS CODE!

UNDERSTAND? WELL?

PEOPLE WHO CAN'T UPHOLD THE RULES ARE DESPICABLE.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

stitch

YOU SHOW UP TO CLASS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 DAYS,

AND YOU'RE ALREADY GOING HOME?

WHACK





IF YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
BE HERE
THAT MUCH,
THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST DROP
OUT?

PEOPLE
LIKE YOU
WHO JUMP
STRAIGHT
TO VIOLENCE
MAKE ME
SICK.

IF YOU
WANT TO
HIT ME,
THEN
DO IT.



OR DO
YOU WANT
TO EAT A
FISTFUL,
TOO?

STAY
OUT OF
THIS,
TEACHER'S
PET.

...WHAT?



NO ONE
WILL STOP
YOU.



...IS WHEN
I'M SHOOTING.

THE ONLY TIME
I FEEL AT PEACE...

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE ACT OF
SHOOTING
SIMPLY PUTS
MY MIND AT
EASE.

THERE HASN'T
BEEN ANYTHING
THAT I'VE
WANTED TO
PROTECT.

...IS
COMPASSION
TOWARD THOSE
WE PROTECT,
AND THE DESIRE
TO PROTECT
THEM.

WHAT
IS MOST
REQUIRED
OF A GUARDS-
MAN...

BEING AN
IMPERIAL GUARD
DOESN'T MEAN
ALL YOU HAVE
TO DO IS
SHOOT.

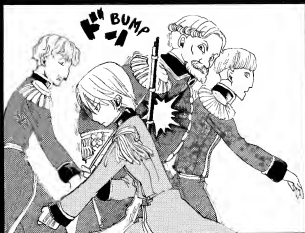
I GUESS I'M
A GUN-FIRING
MACHINE, THEN.

A GUARDSMAN
WHO HAS NO LOVE
FOR HIS FELLOW
MAN,

IS NOTHING
MORE THAN
GUN-FIRING
MACHINE.



AND THAT'S WHY I'M HATED.





IT'S FINE.



I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.







PAT
PAT



GO
AWAY!

KNOCK
IT OFF.

DOES IT
HURT?

IT
DOESN'T
HURT AT
ALL.

I SAID
KNOCK
IT OFF!







...THEN GIVE HER
THE SLIP.

I'LL JUST HUMOR
HER FOR A BIT...

WHY THE
HELL AM I
ACTUALLY
ENJOYING
THIS...?

ISN'T
THIS FUN,
ZAYTSEV?!

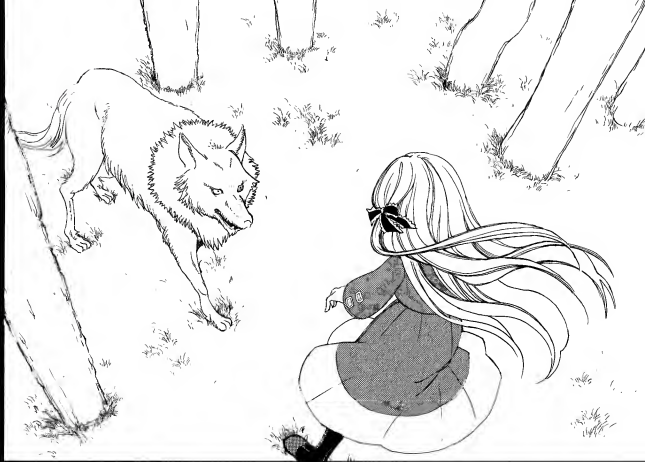


THESE
WOODS
HAVE...



HEY!

DON'T
WANDER
TOO
DEEP.



TCH...



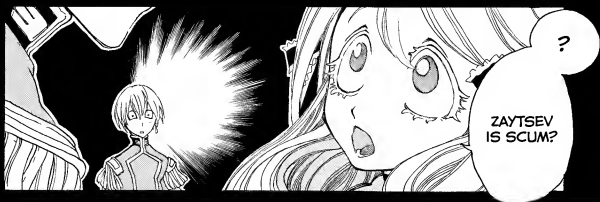
カ
シ
ン
CLACK

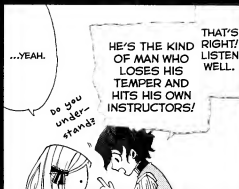


AH!









...YEAH.

do you
under-
stand?

HE'S THE KIND
OF MAN WHO
LOSES HIS
TEMPER AND
HITS HIS OWN
INSTRUCTORS!

THAT'S
RIGHT!
LISTEN
WELL.



**SHUT
UP.**



THEN
HAVE THE
TEACHER'S
PET THERE
PLAY WITH
YOU.

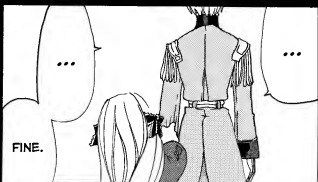
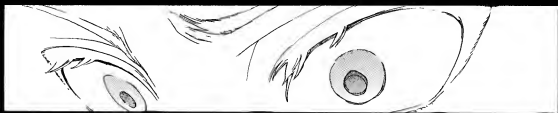
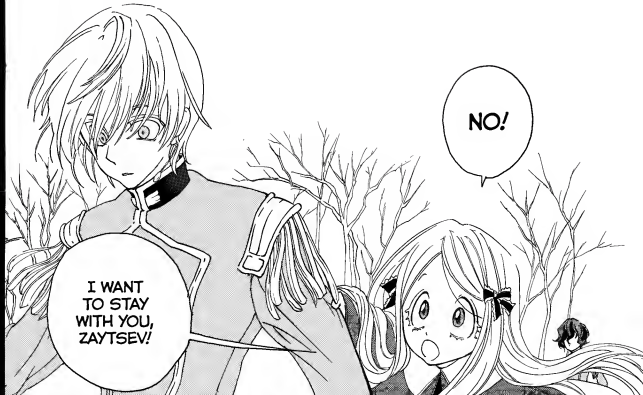
IF YOU
DON'T
LIKE IT,

WELL,
SORRY...

FOR
BEING
SCUM.



SEE YA.

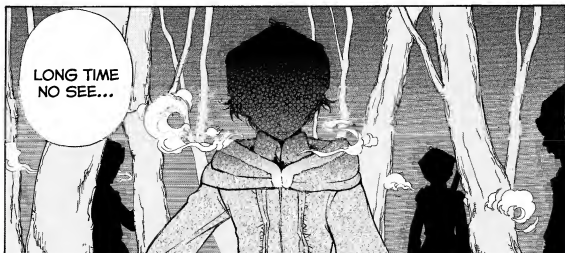
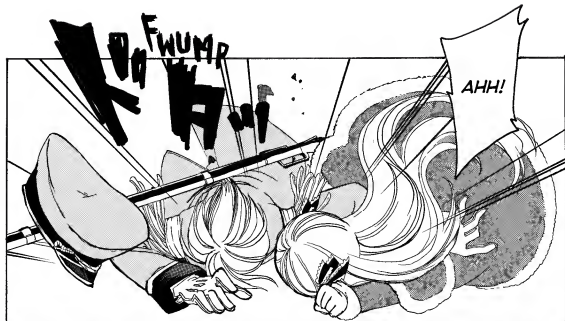


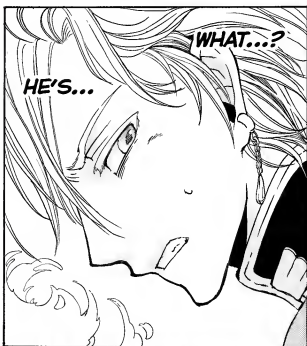




I WAS ACTUALLY HAPPY.









BECAUSE I
REALIZED THERE
IS NO JUSTICE
IN THE ROYAL
FAMILY.





...SHOULD
BUILD A
COUNTRY
BETTER
FOR ALL!

AND
AFTER
STRIP-
PING THE
INCOM-
PETENT
ROYALS
OF THEIR
THRONES,
WE,
THE
CAPABLE
POPUL-
ACE...

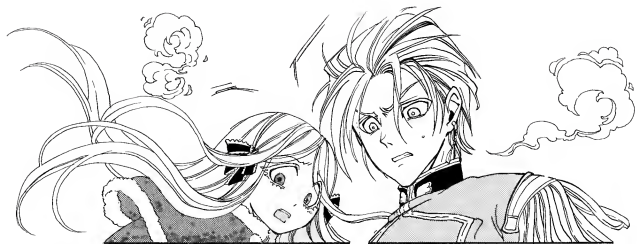


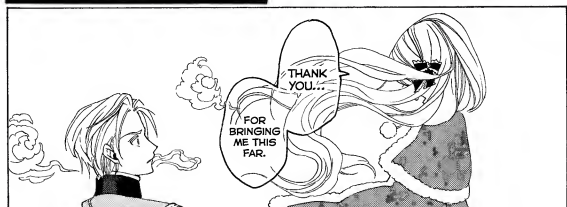
DO SO,
AND WE'LL
LET YOU
LIVE.

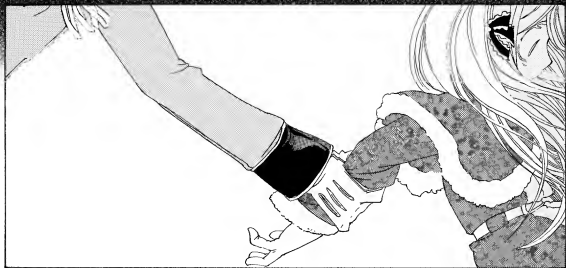
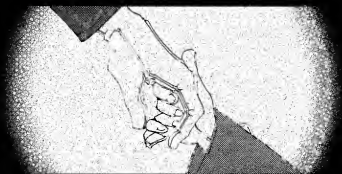


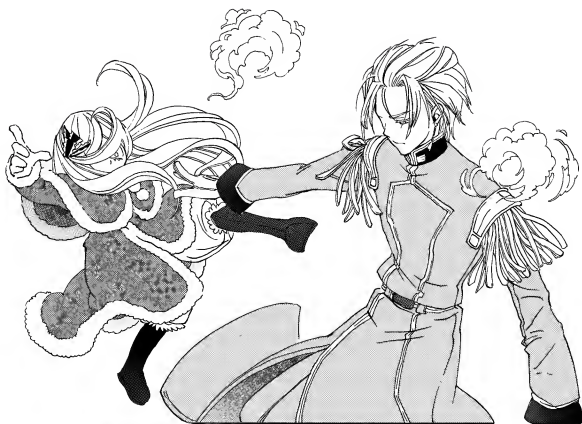
HAND
OVER
THE
PRIN-
CESS,
DMITRY
ZAYTSEV.

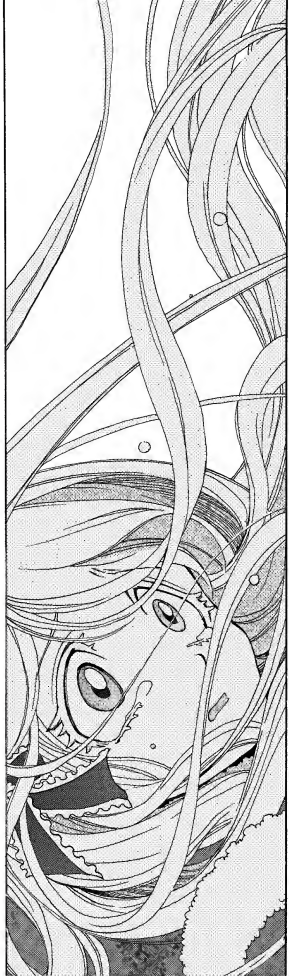










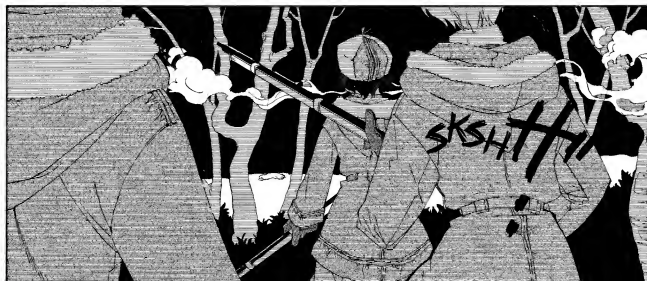
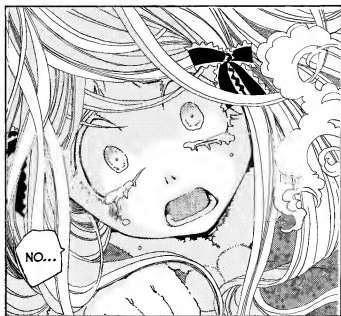


I WAS...



...REALLY
HAPPY.

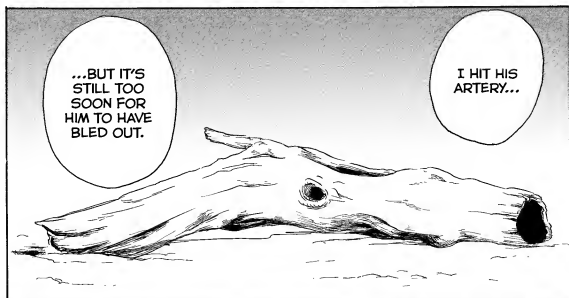






HE'S
NOT DEAD
YET.

WAIT.



...BUT IT'S
STILL TOO
SOON FOR
HIM TO HAVE
BLED OUT.

I HIT HIS
ARTERY...



STUFF
YOUR
MOUTHS
WITH
SNOW.

gunchi

IF SOMEONE
LIKE THAT TRULY
EXISTS, THEN
THEY COULD ONLY
BE DESCRIBED AS
A MONSTER.

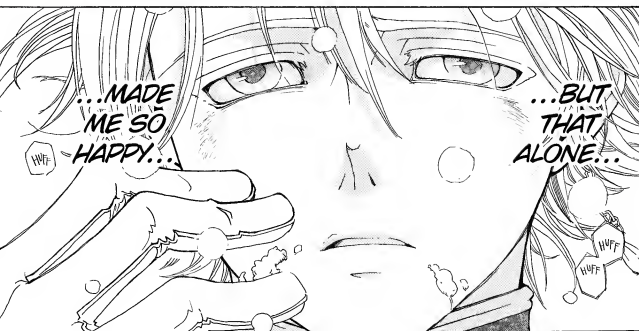
THEY SAY...

...THERE ARE SNIPERS
WHO CAN NOT ONLY SEE
SOLDIERS' BREATH, BUT
EVEN THE VERY STEAM
RISING FROM THEIR BODIES.



RIGHT NOW,
WE NEED TO
ASSUME WE'RE
DEALING WITH A
MERE HUMAN.







I DOUBT
SOMEONE
LIKE YOU...

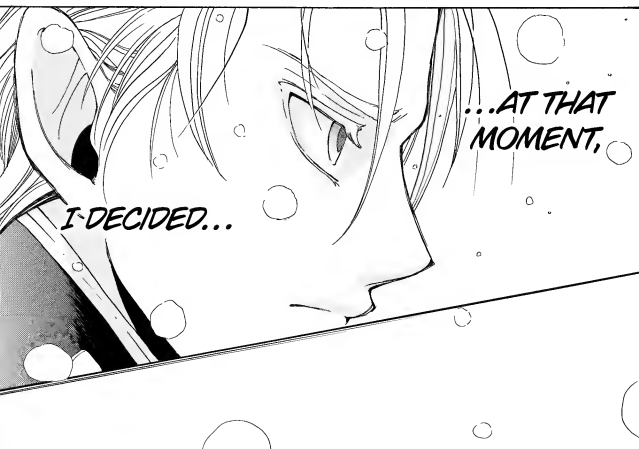
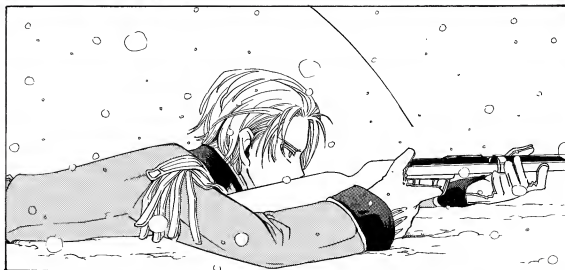


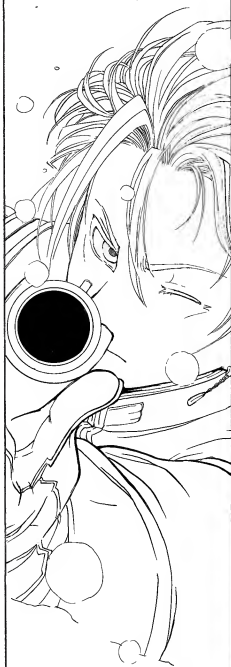
YOU'RE
JUST
CLINGING
TO HER
IDENTITY
AS A
PRINCESS...

...EVEN HAS
PRINCIPLES
TO UPHOLD.



...AND
BLINDLY
PROTECTING
SOMETHING
THAT HAS
NO WORTH.

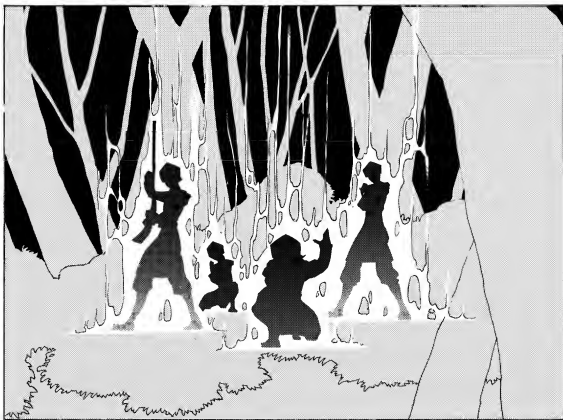




...THAT
IF YOU
WERE
EVER IN
TROU-
BLE...

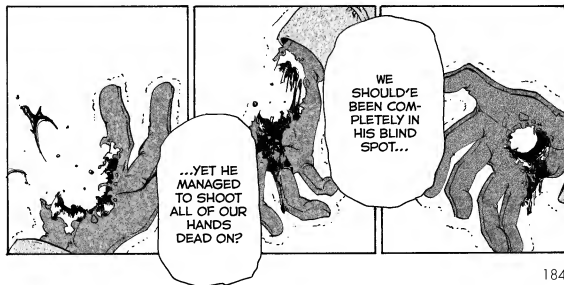
...I
WOULD DO
ANYTHING
TO SAVE
YOU.

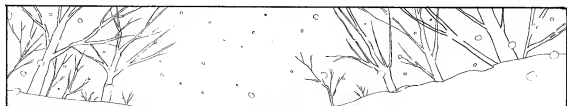


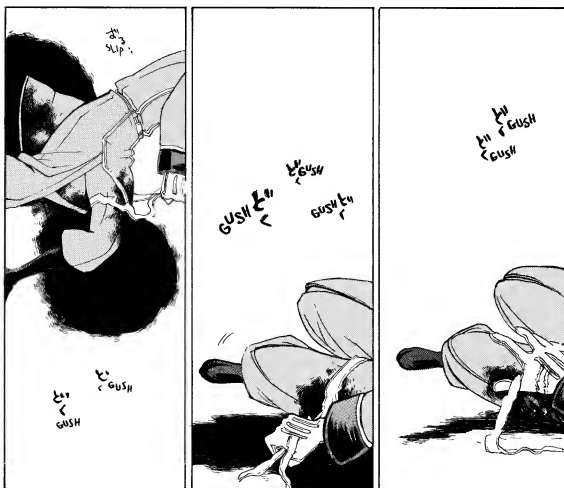
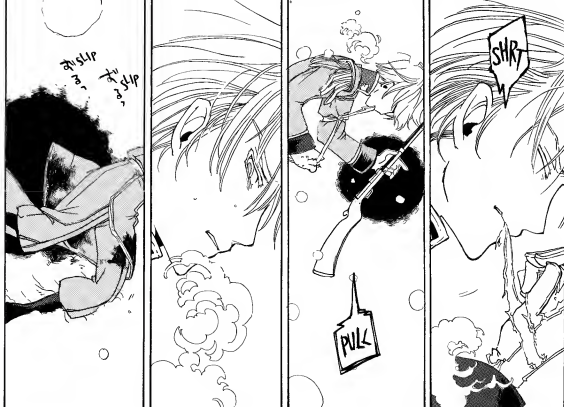


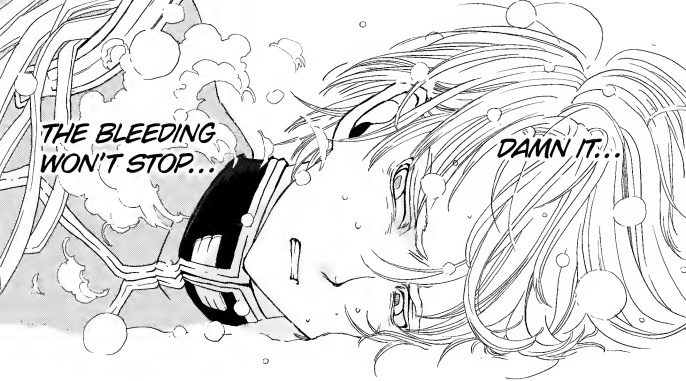
















ARE YOU
HURT?!!
ZAYTSEV!



ZAYTSEV!

ZAYTSEV!



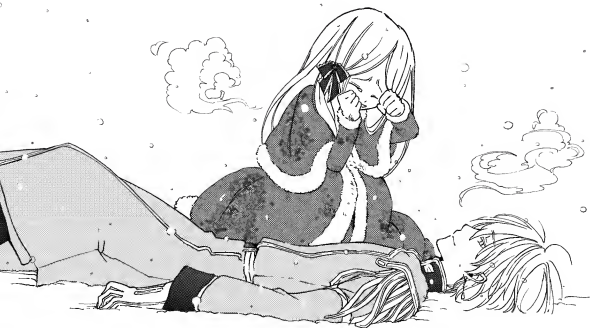
I'M SO
SORRY...

I'M
SORRY...

DOES IT
HURT?

stop





Glossary of Terms

Binbashu	Major
Buyuk Pasha	Great General
Consiglio	Council
Divan	The council of generals
Eyalet	Province
Idareci	Administrator
Informare	Notice board
Halu	Month of the carpet
Kolagasu	Senior Captain
Kubbe altu	Council hall
Legge Ditta	Company Law
Nefer	Private
Padrone	Master
Pasha	General
Rod Orm	A cult currently working for Minister Louis, which employs the use of a number of crude metal weapons. The original term, "Rod Orm," also means "Red Snake" in Swedish.
Shurta	Elite police force
Vali	Provincial Governor
Vezir	Vizier
Yuzbashu	Captain
Zira	1 zira = 2.25 feet

Altair: A Record of Battles 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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